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Exodus

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unfoldingWord® Translation Notes

Exodus

Introduction to Exodus

Part 1: General Introduction

Outline of Exodus

Israel in Egypt; preparing to depart from slavery (1–12)

- First genealogy (1:1–6)
- Israel as slaves in Egypt (1:7–22)
- Moses' history to the time of the Exodus (2:1–4:26)
- Israel suffers in Egypt (4:27–6:13)
- Second genealogy (6:14–27)
- Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh (6:28–7:25)
- The plagues (8:1–11:10)

Instructions for celebrating the Passover (12:1–30)

From Egypt to Mount Sinai (12:31–18:27)

- The Passover; preparing to leave Egypt; leaving Egypt (12:31–50, 13:1–22)
- Journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai (14:1–18:27)

Mount Sinai and the Law (19–40)

- Preparing for the covenant (19:1–25)
- The Ten Commandments (20:1–17)
- The covenant described (20:18–23:33)
- The people agree to the covenant; Moses returns to Mount Sinai (24:1–18)
- Design of the Dwelling and its furnishings; what was required of those who serve in it; dwelling functions (25:1–31:18)
- The golden calf; Moses prays for the people (32:1–33:22)
- The covenant described again (34:1–35)
- Making of the ark and its furnishings (35:1–38:31) and priestly garments (39:1–43, 40:1–33)
- The cloud (40:34–38)

What is the book of Exodus about?

Exodus continues the story of the previous book, Genesis. The first half of Exodus is about how Yahweh made Abraham's descendants into a nation. This nation, which would be called "Israel," was meant to belong to Yahweh and worship him. The second half of Exodus describes how God gave the Israelites his law through Moses. The law of Moses told the Israelites how to obey and worship Yahweh properly.

The book of Exodus tells how the Israelites were to build the Dwelling. The Dwelling was a tent where Yahweh would be among his people. The Israelites worshiped and sacrificed animals to Yahweh at the Dwelling. (See: [law](#), [law of Moses](#), [law of Yahweh](#), [law of God](#) and [tabernacle](#))

How should the title of this book be translated?

"Exodus" means "exit" or "departure." Translators may translate this title in a way that can communicate its subject clearly, for example, "About the Israelites Leaving Egypt" or "How the Israelites Left the Land of Egypt." (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Who wrote the book of Exodus?

The writers of both the Old and New Testaments present Moses as being very involved with writing the book of Exodus. Since ancient times, both Jews and Christians have thought that Moses wrote Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Why did Moses write so much about God delivering or rescuing the people of Israel?

Moses wrote much about God rescuing his people from the Egyptians to show that Yahweh is very powerful. Egypt was a very powerful nation in the region at that time, but Yahweh was still able to free the Israelites from the Egyptians. Also, by rescuing the Israelites, Yahweh showed that he had chosen them as his people and that they should worship him.

How does the book of Exodus show the fulfillment of the promises given to Abraham?

The book of Exodus shows God beginning to fulfill his promise to Abraham. In Genesis, God promised Abraham that he would have many descendants and that they would become a large nation. When God rescued the Israelites from the Egyptians, he took them to Mount Sinai. There he made a covenant with them, and they became the nation that belonged to Yahweh.

Part 2: Important Religious and Cultural Concepts

What was the Jewish Passover?

The Jewish Passover was a religious festival. Yahweh commanded the Israelites to celebrate it every year. Passover was a time to remember how God rescued Israel from the Egyptians. The first Passover meal was eaten in the evening just before they left Egypt. (See: [Passover](#))

What was the law of Moses to the people of Israel?

The law of Moses instructed the people of Israel about what Yahweh required them to do as his people. In the law, God told the people how they should live so that they would honor him. He also instructed them about their need to offer animal sacrifices. God required these sacrifices so that he could forgive their sins and continue living among them. The law also described the duties of the priests and told how to build the Dwelling.

What did it mean that Israel was to be a “kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (19:6 ULT)?

Israel was a holy nation because Yahweh separated them from all other nations to belong to him. They were to honor and worship him only. This made them different from all the other nations of the world; the other nations worshiped many false gods.

Part 3: Important Translation Issues

Thus says Yahweh

This phrase is used many times in the Old Testament to introduce Yahweh's speech. Your team should pick a standard translation. See 4:intro for more.

Pharaoh's stubborn heart

Between chapters 4 and 14, there are 18 cases where Pharaoh's heart is described as strong (11x), heavy (6x), or hard (1x), and one case where the Egyptians' hearts are described as strong. These are metaphors for being stubborn, that is, being unwilling to obey Yahweh or even to do what is clearly in his own and Egypt's best interest. Many cultures have similar metaphors, but not all will use the same body part. Within these cases, six times there is a neutral description that Pharaoh was stubborn, without saying anyone made him so (7:13, 7:14, 7:22, 8:19, 9:7, 9:35); three times Pharaoh makes himself stubborn (8:15, 8:32, 9:34); and ten times Yahweh makes Pharaoh/the Egyptians stubborn (4:21, 7:3, 9:12, 10:1, 10:20, 10:27, 11:10, 14:4, 14:8, 14:17).

Why are the details of the construction of the Dwelling in Exodus 25–32 repeated in Exodus 35–40?

In Exodus 25–32, God describes exactly how the Dwelling was to be built. The details were repeated in Exodus 35–40 in the description of the actual construction. This showed that the people were careful to do exactly as God commanded.

Are the events in the order that they actually happened?

Most, but not all, of the events in the book of Exodus are told in the order that they actually happened. Translators may need to make it clear when the events are in an unusual order.

What does it mean that God "lived" among his people?

The book of Exodus presents God as living in the Dwelling among the nation of Israel. God is everywhere, but he lived among the Israelites in a special way. God dwelled with the Israelites because they belonged to him. He promised to lead them and bless them. In return, the people were to worship him and honor him.

Exodus 1

Exodus 1 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

This chapter is intended to form a smooth transition from the last chapter of the book of Genesis.

- v. 1-7: Jacob's family grows
- v. 8-22: Pharaoh oppresses the Israelites and tries to limit the Israelites' growth

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Israel's growth

Israel grew in number. This was the beginning of God's fulfilling his promises to Abraham. It also caused the Pharaoh to worry that there would be more Israelites than Egyptians, with the result that the Egyptians would be unable to defend themselves against so many people. Pharaoh tried to kill all of the male babies so they would not become soldiers who fought against him. (See: [fulfill](#), [fulfilled](#), [carried out](#) and [covenant](#))

Possible Translation Difficulties in this Chapter

- "All of the descendants of Jacob were 70 in number" This number included both Jacob's children and grandchildren. It may cause confusion, but it is important to remember Jacob only had 12 sons.
- Starting from verse 7, the terms **Hebrews** and **sons of Israel** both refer to the Israelite nation or people group.
- God blesses the Hebrew midwives for lying to the wicked Pharaoh. Translators should not attempt to hide this. They showed that they feared God by disobeying a wicked order in order to preserve the lives of God's people. They "acted wisely toward him" (or shrewdly, see [1:10](#)) by lying to foil Pharaoh.
- Pharaoh is a specifically Egyptian word for their kings (and queens).

Exodus 1:1

Verses 1–7 are background information for the story. Use the natural form in your language for expressing background information. (See: [Background Information](#))

the ones who came...They came in (ULT) who went...who went (UST)

The words translated as **came in** could also be translated as “went in.” Use whichever form is most natural in your language. (See: [Go and Come](#))

Israel...Jacob (ULT)

Israel’s sons...Jacob (UST)

Jacob and **Israel** are two names for the same man. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

and his house (ULT)

and their families (UST)

Here, **house** refers to all of the people who live together, usually a large family with servants. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “and his household” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the names of
- the sons of
- Israel
- to Egypt
- Jacob
- and his house

Translation Words - UST

- the names of
- Israel’s sons
- Israel’s sons
- into Egypt
- Jacob
- and their families

ULT

¹ And these are the names of the sons of Israel, the ones who came to Egypt. They came in with Jacob, a man and his house:

UST

¹ These are the names of Israel’s sons who went into Egypt with Jacob and their families:

Exodus 1:2

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Reuben
- Simeon
- Levi
- and Judah

Translation Words - UST

- Reuben
- Simeon
- Levi
- Judah

ULT

² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah,

UST

² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,

Exodus 1:3

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Issachar
- Zebulun
- and Benjamin

Translation Words - UST

- Issachar
- Zebulun
- Benjamin

ULT

³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin,

UST

³ Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin,

Exodus 1:4

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Dan
- and Naphtali
- Gad
- and Asher

Translation Words - UST

- Dan
- Naphtali
- Gad
- and Asher

ULT

⁴ Dan, and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

UST

⁴ Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

Exodus 1:5

**And all the lives going out of the loins of Jacob, were 70 lives (ULT)
At that time}, Jacob had 70 total descendants (UST)**

Here, **lives** refers to people (specifically, men); **going out of the loins of Jacob** is a reference to these people as being in his seed or semen and produced through his sexual acts—therefore meaning they are his descendants. See also Hebrews 7:9-10. Alternate translation: “And all the male descendants of Jacob numbered 70.” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the lives](#)
- [Jacob](#)
- [lives](#)
- [And Joseph](#)
- [in Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Jacob](#)
- [70](#)
- [total](#)
- [including Joseph {and his sons} who](#)
- [in Egypt](#)

ULT

⁵ And all [the lives](#) going out of the loins of [Jacob](#), were 70 [lives](#). And [Joseph](#) was [in Egypt](#).

UST

⁵ {At that time}, [Jacob](#) had 70 [total](#) descendants ([including Joseph {and his sons} who](#) were already [in Egypt](#).)

Exodus 1:6

And...died (ULT)

After some time...died (UST)

They did not die immediately. Jacob and his sons spent the rest of their lives in Egypt and died there. If necessary, use a transition word that conveys that some time passed. (See: [Connect — Sequential Time Relationship](#))

and all his brothers (ULT)

and his brothers (UST)

All his brothers includes ten older brothers and one younger brother. If your language has different words for those, you can say, “his ten older brothers and his younger brother” (See: [Kinship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Joseph](#)
- [his brothers](#)
- [generation](#)
- [And...died](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [After some time...died](#)
- [Joseph](#)
- [and his brothers](#)
- [in their family who lived at...time](#)

ULT

⁶ And [Joseph](#) and all [his brothers](#) and all that [generation died](#).

UST

⁶ {[After some time,](#)} [Joseph and his brothers](#) and everyone else [in their family who lived at that time died](#).

Exodus 1:7

And the sons of Israel (ULT) Jacob's} descendants (UST)

This is the first of many times in this book that **sons of Israel** refers to the Israelite nation or people. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "And the people of Israel" or "And the Israelites" (See: [Metonymy](#))

were fruitful and propagated and multiplied and were mighty (ULT) gave birth to many children. The number of his descendants grew, and they became... strong (UST)

All of these verbs mean similar things; they are used together to emphasize that the Israelites became very numerous. If your language doesn't have as many words that mean the same thing, you can use fewer words and express the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "had many children and became strong" (See: [Doublet](#))

were fruitful...and multiplied...and the land was filled (ULT) gave birth to many children...The number of his descendants grew...As a result, there were so many of them that...were everywhere in Egypt (UST)

Compare your translation of **fruitful ... and multiplied ... and the land was filled** here to Genesis 1:28, 9:1, 9:7, and especially Genesis 35:11 where God renamed Jacob to be called Israel.

were fruitful and propagated (ULT) gave birth to many children (UST)

The birth of children to the Israelites is spoken of as if they were plants that were producing fruit and causing new plants to grow around them. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "had many children" or "gave birth to many children" (See: [Metaphor](#))

with great greatness (ULT) extremely (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **greatness** in another way. Alternate translation: "and were very great" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

and the land was filled with them (ULT) As a result, there were so many of them that} they were everywhere in Egypt (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can express the idea in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "and they filled the land" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

ULT

⁷ And the sons of Israel were fruitful and propagated and multiplied and were mighty, with great greatness, and the land was filled with them.

UST

⁷ {Jacob's} descendants gave birth to many children. The number of his descendants grew, and they became extremely strong. {As a result, there were so many of them that} they were everywhere in Egypt.

with great greatness (ULT)
extremely (UST)

Here the same word is used twice to emphasize how many the Israelite people had become. If your language does not repeat words like this, express the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "with much power" (See: [Idiom](#))

with them (ULT)
they (UST)

Here, **them** refers to the Israelites. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- And the sons of
- Israel
- were fruitful
- and multiplied
- and were mighty
- the land

Translation Words - UST

- Jacob's
- descendants
- gave birth to many children
- The number of his descendants grew
- and they became...strong
- in Egypt

Exodus 1:8

And...arose (ULT)

However, sometime later...began (UST)

This introduces a new event that happened some time after the events the story has just related. The story does not say how long after those events this new event happened. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

a new king (ULT)

a new king (UST)

The story begins with the new king. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new character. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

And a new king arose over Egypt (ULT)

However, sometime later,} a new king began to rule in Egypt (UST)

Here, **Egypt** refers to the place and the people of Egypt. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "And a new king began to rule over the Egyptians and the country of Egypt" (See: [Metonymy](#))

did not know Joseph (ULT)

did not know about {all the good things} Joseph {had done for the people of Egypt (UST)

Here, **Joseph** refers to both the person Joseph and to all of the good things that he did for Egypt. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. See the UST. (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a...king
- Egypt
- did...know
- Joseph

Translation Words - UST

- a new king
- in Egypt
- did...know
- about...all the good things} Joseph...had done for the people of Egypt

ULT

⁸ And a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

UST

⁸ {However, sometime later,} a new king began to rule in Egypt. He did not know about {all the good things} Joseph {had done for the people of Egypt}.

Exodus 1:9

Behold (ULT) Look {at what has happened (UST)

Behold draws special attention to what is about to be said. Use a way of drawing people's attention that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "Listen" (See: [Exclamations](#))

his people (ULT) his people (UST)

The people whom the king rules over and who are also part of his group (probably shared ethnicity, tribe, or clan) rather than the Israelite group are spoken of as if they belonged to the king. This is an instance of the possessive of social relationship. (See: [Possession](#))

his people (ULT) his people (UST)

There is some ambiguity as to whom exactly Pharaoh was addressing. It could have been: (1) the people who lived in Egypt, the Egyptians or (2) some group of "his people" like his advisors, generals, nobles, or friends and family. Even if option 1 is meant, it is quite possible that he actually spoke to some smaller group of representatives, as in option 2.

compared to us (ULT) that they outnumber us Egyptians (UST)

Use a way that is natural in your language to compare non-specific sizes of groups of people. Alternate translation: "and much greater than us"

Behold (ULT) Look {at what has happened (UST)

Beginning from **behold** and extending to the end of [verse 10](#) is a direct quotation of what the king said. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the people of](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [and mighty](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Israelites](#)
- [Israelites](#)
- [Israelites](#)

ULT

⁹ And he said to his people, "Behold, [the people of the sons of Israel](#) are many [and mighty](#) compared to us.

UST

⁹ He said to his people, "Look {at what has happened}! There are so many [Israelites that they outnumber us Egyptians!](#)

- that they outnumber us Egyptians

Exodus 1:10

let us act wisely...the ones hating us...with us (ULT)
find a way to control...our enemies...against us (UST)

The word **us** is inclusive and refers to the king and his people, the Egyptians. Your language may require you to mark these forms. (See: [Exclusive and Inclusive 'We'](#))

toward him...he multiplies...and...adds himself...he...and he fights...and he leaves (ULT)
them...there will be more of them...will join...the Israelites...and fight...and they will escape (UST)

Here, **him**, **he**, and **himself** refer to the Israelite people. The pronouns agree grammatically with the singular "people" in the original. This occurs in many places in Exodus. If this is confusing in your language, you can use the plural, as in the UST. (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

lest he multiplies, and it happens that a battle occurs (ULT)
If we do not do that, there will be more of them. Then, if enemies attack us (UST)

The king suggests a combination of two hypothetical events: 1. There are even more Israelites, 2. There is a battle. These are followed by a series of undesirable consequences: 3. The Israelites join an enemy, 4. The Israelites attack the Egyptians, 5. The Israelites leave Egypt. While the series of consequences is also technically hypothetical, the king's language indicates that if 1-2 happen, then 3-5 are certain. Use language that makes it clear that the first two events are hypothetical and that the next three are consequences that could be expected if the first two events happen. (See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#))

and he leaves from the land (ULT)
and they will escape from our land (UST)

Alternate translation: "and he leaves Egypt"

Translation Words - ULT

- [let us act wisely](#)
- [he multiplies](#)
- [the land](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [find a way to control](#)
- [there will be more of them](#)
- [our land](#)

ULT

¹⁰ Come, [let us act wisely](#) toward him, lest [he multiplies](#), and it happens that a battle occurs, and he even adds himself onto the ones hating us, and he fights with us, and he leaves from [the land](#)."

UST

¹⁰ We must [find a way to control](#) them! If we do not do that, [there will be more of them](#). Then, if enemies attack us, the Israelites will join with our enemies and fight against us, and they will escape from [our land](#)."

Exodus 1:11

overseers of (ULT) masters over groups of Israelite workers (UST)

Overseers were Egyptians whose job it was to force the Israelites to do hard work.

labor gangs (ULT) masters over groups of Israelite workers (UST)

Here the plural means groups. Alternative translation: "work crews"

in order to afflict him by their burdens (ULT) to cause them to suffer very much by making them work very hard (UST)

Alternate translation: "to force the Israelites to do hard work for the Egyptians"

cities of storage (ULT) the cities...to store goods (UST)

These were places where the leaders put away food and other important things to keep them safe. Alternative translation: "cities in which to put away things to keep them safe"

cities of storage (ULT) the cities...to store goods (UST)

The possessive is objective; storage of goods is what occurs in the cities. Alternate translation: "cities for storing things"(See: [Possession](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [overseers of](#)
- [labor gangs](#)
- [afflict him](#)
- [by their burdens](#)
- [for Pharaoh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [masters over groups of Israelite workers](#)
- [masters over groups of Israelite workers](#)
- [them to suffer very much](#)
- [by making them work very hard](#)
- [for the king](#)

ULT

¹¹ And they set over him [overseers of labor gangs](#) in order to [afflict him by their burdens](#). And he built Pithom and Rameses, cities of storage [for Pharaoh](#).

UST

¹¹ So the king and his officials put [masters over groups of Israelite workers](#) to cause [them to suffer very much by making them work very hard](#). So the Israelites built the cities Pithom and Rameses to store goods [for the king](#).

Exodus 1:12

**And insofar as they afflicted him, thus he multiplied and thus he spread out (ULT)
But the more the Egyptians treated the Israelites badly, the more the Israelites had children, and the more they spread throughout Egypt (UST)**

This sentence expresses a result that is the opposite of what the king expected. Use a natural way in your language for introducing a contrast. (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

**And they felt a sickening dread from the face of (ULT)
Therefore, the Egyptians were distressed because of the Israelites (UST)**

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **dread** in another way. Alternate translation: “And they were very afraid of the face of” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

**from the face of the sons of Israel (ULT)
because of the Israelites (UST)**

Here, **face** figuratively means the presence of a person. The phrase means that the Egyptians were afraid of the Israelites' existence in their country. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “of the growing Israelite population” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [they afflicted](#)
- [he multiplied](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Egyptians treated...badly](#)
- [the Israelites had children](#)
- [because of the Israelites](#)
- [because of the Israelites](#)

ULT

¹² And insofar as [they afflicted](#) him, thus [he multiplied](#) and thus he spread out. And they felt a sickening dread from the face of [the sons of Israel](#).

UST

¹² But the more [the Egyptians treated](#) the Israelites [badly](#), the more [the Israelites had children](#), and the more they spread throughout Egypt. Therefore, the Egyptians were distressed [because of the Israelites](#).

Exodus 1:13

And the Egyptians enslaved the sons of Israel with rigor (ULT)

The Egyptians ruthlessly made the Israelites work (UST)

Here, **rigor** is a noun used to modify the verb **enslaved**. **Rigor** could refer either to how hard the work was or how unkindly the Egyptians treated the Israelites. If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind it in another way.

Alternate translation: "And the Egyptians made the sons of Israel work very hard" or "And harshly, the Egyptians made the sons of Israel work" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

ULT

¹³ And [the Egyptians](#) enslaved the sons of [Israel](#) with rigor.

UST

¹³ [The Egyptians](#) ruthlessly [made the Israelites work](#)

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Egyptians](#)
- [And...enslaved](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The Egyptians](#)
- [made...work](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

Exodus 1:14

And they embittered their lives (ULT) and made their lives miserable (UST)

The difficult lives of the Israelites are spoken of as if their daily lives were bitter food that was difficult to eat. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "And they made their lives very difficult" (See: [Metaphor](#))

by hard slavery (ULT) by forcing them to work hard (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind **slavery** in another way. Alternative translation: "by making them work hard as slaves" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

by mortar (ULT) The Israelites built with bricks and mortar (UST)

Mortar is a mixture of lime with cement, sand, and water, used in building to bond bricks or stones. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and by bricks (ULT) The Israelites built with bricks and mortar (UST)

Bricks are blocks made of clay or mud with straw in them. They are hardened in the sun or in another manner before they are used for building. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

all their work with which they worked for them was with rigor (ULT) The Egyptians ruthlessly gave them all sorts of work (UST)

See how you translated this in [verse 13](#). Alternate translation: "the Egyptians made them work very hard" or "the Egyptians forced them to work very hard"

And they embittered...for them (ULT) and made...miserable...The Egyptians...gave them (UST)

Here, **they** and **them** refer to the Egyptians. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

their lives...their work...they worked (ULT) their lives...all sorts of work...The Egyptians...gave them (UST)

Here, **their** and **they** refer to the Israelites. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

ULT

¹⁴ And they embittered **their lives** by **hard slavery**, by mortar and by bricks, and by all kinds of **slave labor** in the fields; all **their work** with which **they worked** for them was with rigor.

UST

¹⁴ and made **their lives** miserable by **forcing them to work hard**. The Israelites built with bricks and mortar **and did all sorts of agricultural work**. **The Egyptians ruthlessly gave them all sorts of work**.

was with rigor (ULT) ruthlessly (UST)

See how you translated **rigor** in the previous verse. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- their lives
- hard
- by...slavery
- slave labor
- their work
- they worked

Translation Words - UST

- their lives
- by forcing them to work
- and did all sorts of agricultural work
- all sorts of work
- hard
- The Egyptians...gave them

Exodus 1:15

This sentence introduces a new event in the story. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

to the...midwives (ULT)
Hebrew midwives...to them (UST)

Midwives were women who helped a pregnant woman give birth to a baby.

was Shiphrah...was Puah (ULT)
Shiphrah...Puah (UST)

Shiphrah and **Puah** are women's names. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

was Shiphrah...was Puah (ULT)
Shiphrah...Puah (UST)

The midwives are introduced here as new participants in the story. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new character. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the king of
- Egypt
- Hebrew
- the name of
- and the name of

Translation Words - UST

- Hebrew midwives...to them
- named
- and
- The king
- of Egypt

ULT

¹⁵ And [the king of Egypt](#) spoke to the [Hebrew](#) midwives, of whom [the name](#) of the one was Shiphrah, [and the name](#) of the second was Puah.

UST

¹⁵ Now there were two [Hebrew](#) midwives named Shiphrah [and](#) Puah. [The king of Egypt](#) said [to them](#),

Exodus 1:16

And he said (ULT) When you help...have a baby (UST)

In the UST, the phrase and **the king said**, is combined with “spoke” from [verse 15](#) (ULT) because the verb for “say” is used twice before he speaks. Having two speech verbs may be strange in some languages. If it would be unnatural to say that the king spoke or said words twice, you may leave one off.

When you assist...as midwives...and you see... then you shall cause...to die (ULT) When you help...have a baby...pay attention... you must kill (UST)

The king is speaking to the two midwives, so the form of **you** is plural. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a dual or plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

on the birth stool (ULT) right as the baby is born (UST)

Women sat on this short stool as they gave birth. Therefore, it was associated with birth. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “in the birthing process” (See: [Metonymy](#))

if he is a son, then you shall cause him to die, but if she is a daughter, then she shall live (ULT) If the baby is a boy, you must kill him. If the baby is a girl, you may let her live (UST)

These two statements are hypothetical conditions (starting at **if**) with instructions for what the midwives should do in each situation (starting at **then**). Use a natural form in your language for hypothetical situations connected to instructions. (See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Hebrew women](#)
- [a son](#)
- [then you shall cause...to die](#)
- [then she shall live](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a Hebrew woman](#)
- [is a boy](#)
- [you must kill](#)
- [you may let her live](#)

ULT

¹⁶ And he said, “When you assist [the Hebrew women](#) as midwives and you see on the birth stool, if he is [a son](#), [then you shall cause](#) him to die, but if she is a daughter, [then she shall live.](#)”

UST

¹⁶ “When you help [a Hebrew woman](#) have a baby, pay attention right as the baby is born. If the baby [is a boy](#), [you must kill](#) him. If the baby is a girl, [you may let her live.](#)”

Exodus 1:17

But...feared (ULT)

But...were afraid {to disobey...they (UST)

But introduces a contrast to what was expected. Use a natural way in your language for introducing a contrast. (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- But...feared
- God
- the king of
- Egypt
- and they let...live
- the sons

Translation Words - UST

- But...were afraid {to disobey...they
- God
- the king
- the king
- They allowed...to live
- the baby boys

ULT

¹⁷ But the midwives feared God and did not do according to what the king of Egypt spoke to them, and they let the sons live.

UST

¹⁷ But the midwives were afraid {to disobey} God. So they did not obey what the king told them to do. They allowed the baby boys to live.

Exodus 1:18

to the midwives (ULT) the two midwives (UST)

Women whose work is to help other woman give birth to a baby are called **midwives**. See how you translated this in [Exodus 1:15](#).

and he said to them, “Why have you done this thing, and let the sons live (ULT) and asked them, “Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live (UST)

If it would be more natural in your language, you could translate this quotation as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: “and he asked them why they were letting the sons live.” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Why have you done this thing, and let the sons live (ULT) Why are you doing this? Why are you letting the baby boys live (UST)

Alternate translation: “Why have you not killed the baby boys?”

have you done (ULT) are you doing (UST)

This **you** is plural. The king is speaking to the two midwives. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a dual or plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the king of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [And...called out](#)
- [and let...live](#)
- [the sons](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [So...summoned](#)
- [the king](#)
- [the king](#)
- [Why are you letting...live](#)
- [the baby boys](#)

ULT

¹⁸ And [the king of Egypt](#) called out to the midwives, and he said to them, “Why have you done this thing, [and let the sons live?](#)”

UST

¹⁸ So [the king](#) summoned the two midwives and asked them, “Why are you doing this? [Why are you letting the baby boys live?](#)”

Exodus 1:19

Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women: for they are lively, and, before the midwife comes to them, they have given birth (ULT)

We have not been able to obey you} because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women. Because they are energetic, the Hebrew women have their babies before we arrive to help them (UST)

The midwives give a reason, **the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women**, and then they expand on that reason, **for they are lively** (or energetic), with the result that **before the midwife comes to them, they have given birth**. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

And the midwives said (ULT)

One of the midwives replied (UST)

Here, **midwives said** means that a midwife spoke representing the thoughts of the group. It may not make sense in your language to say that multiple people said something, so you may need to translate it in the singular (see UST). (See: [Synecdoche](#))

the midwives (ULT)

One of the midwives (UST)

These were women who helped a woman give birth to a baby. See how you translated this in [Exodus 1:15](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- the Hebrew women are
- Egyptian

Translation Words - UST

- the king
- the Hebrew women
- the Egyptian women

ULT

¹⁹ And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women: for they are lively, and, before the midwife comes to them, they have given birth."

UST

¹⁹ One of the midwives replied to the king, "{We have not been able to obey you} because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women. Because they are energetic, the Hebrew women have their babies before we arrive to help them."

Exodus 1:20

to the midwives (ULT)

to the midwives (UST)

These were women who helped a woman give birth to a baby. See how you translated this in [Exodus 1:15](#).

And the people multiplied and became very mighty (ULT)

Therefore, the {Hebrew} people became numerous and very strong (UST)

This sentence gives background information about the events at the time. Use the natural form in your language for expressing background information. (See: [Background Information](#))

And...multiplied...and became very mighty (ULT)

Therefore...became numerous...and very strong (UST)

These words mean similar things and are used together to emphasize their numeric growth. If your language doesn't have as many words that mean the same thing, you can use fewer words and express the emphasis in another way. (See: [Doublet](#))

And God caused good to the midwives (ULT)

God acted kindly to the midwives (UST)

This phrase is more logically connected to the statements in verse 21. It describes the result of the midwives fearing God with a general statement. If it would be more natural in your language, you could rearrange verses 20-21 so that the reason (verses 21) comes before both the general and specific results. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- God
- And...caused good
- the people
- And...multiplied
- and became...mighty

Translation Words - UST

- Therefore...became numerous
- the {Hebrew} people
- and...strong
- God
- acted kindly

ULT

²⁰ And God caused good to the midwives. And the people multiplied and became very mighty.

UST

²⁰ (Therefore, the {Hebrew} people became numerous and very strong.) God acted kindly to the midwives

Exodus 1:21

**since the midwives feared God (ULT)
because...they were afraid {to disobey} him
(UST)**

This is the reason for what God did. If it would be more natural in your language, you could rearrange verses 20-21 so that the reason (verses 21) comes before both the general and specific results. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

**that he made houses for them (ULT)
He gave them each a husband and children
(UST)**

This describes the result of the midwives fearing God with a specific statement. If it would be more natural in your language, you could rearrange verses 20-21 so that the reason (verses 21) comes before both the general and specific results. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

**houses (ULT)
a husband and children (UST)**

Alternate translation: "households"

Translation Words - ULT

- feared
- God
- houses

Translation Words - UST

- were afraid {to disobey}
- him
- a husband and children

ULT

²¹ And it came about, since the midwives **feared God**, that he made **houses** for them.

UST

²¹ because they **were afraid {to disobey} him**. He gave them each **a husband and children**.

Exodus 1:22

You shall throw every newborn son into the river (ULT)

Throw every {Hebrew} baby boy that is born into the Nile River (UST)

This order was given in order to drown the male Hebrew children. The full meaning of this may be made explicit. Alternate translation: "You must dispose of each new baby boy in the river so he will drown" or "Drown each baby boy in the river when he is born" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

And Pharaoh commanded to all of his people, saying, "You shall throw every newborn son into the river, but every daughter you shall let live (ULT)

Then the king ordered all the Egyptian people, "Throw every {Hebrew} baby boy that is born into the Nile River! However, you can allow the baby girls to live (UST)

From **You shall** to the end of the verse is a direct quote of Pharaoh's speech. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with first-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation. However, it could be translated as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: "And Pharaoh commanded all of his people to throw every baby boy into the river, but to let every girl live." (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

You shall throw...you shall let live (ULT)

Throw...you can allow...to live (UST)

The uses of the word **you** here refer to all the Egyptians. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Pharaoh](#)
- [And...commanded](#)
- [son](#)
- [into the river](#)
- [you shall let live](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the king](#)
- [Then...ordered](#)
- [Hebrew} baby boy](#)
- [into the Nile River](#)
- [you can allow...to live](#)

ULT

²² And [Pharaoh commanded](#) to all of his people, saying, "You shall throw every newborn [son into the river](#), but every daughter [you shall let live](#)."

UST

²² Then [the king ordered](#) all the Egyptian people, "Throw every [{Hebrew} baby boy](#) that is born [into the Nile River](#)! However, [you can allow](#) the baby girls to [live](#)."

Exodus 2

Exodus 2 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- v. 1-10: Moses' birth and early life
- v. 11-15: Moses' attempted intervention and flight
- v. 16-22: Moses settles in Midian
- v. 23-25: God sees the Israelites' plight

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Covenant

At the end of the chapter, God begins to relate to the Israelites based on his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Possible Translation Difficulties in this Chapter

Identification of participants

- Moses is the only participant named in most of this chapter. This is because many of the participants play very minor roles and because this part of the story is focusing on Moses' life.

Moses' heritage

In the first part of this chapter, Pharaoh's daughter recognizes Moses as being a Hebrew, but in the last part of this chapter, the Midianites believe him to be an Egyptian.

Ironic situations

- While Pharaoh tried to diminish the power of the Israelites by killing all of their baby boys, God used Pharaoh's own daughter to save Moses.
- Moses believes he is meant to be the rescuer of his people, but they reject him. Ultimately, Moses was correct, but the people rejected him at this point (see Acts 7).

Exodus 2:1

And...went (ULT)

Now there was (UST)

A new scene begins here. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

a man...a daughter of (ULT)

a man...a woman who was also a descendant of (UST)

These are new participants. They remain unnamed until [Exodus 6:20](#) where they are identified as Amram and Jochebed. For now it is best to leave them unnamed in your language, if possible. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

and took a daughter of Levi (ULT)

He married a woman who was also a descendant of Levi (UST)

Here, **took a daughter** is an idiom for marrying. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression from your language. (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [from the house of](#)
- [Levi](#)
- [Levi](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [who was a descendant of](#)
- [Jacob's son Levi](#)
- [Levi](#)

ULT

¹ And a man [from the house of Levi](#) went and took a daughter of [Levi](#).

UST

¹ Now there was a man [who was a descendant of Jacob's son Levi](#). He married a woman who was also a descendant of [Levi](#).

Exodus 2:2**good (ULT)
was a healthy baby (UST)**

Alternative translations: “pleasing” or “fine”

**And she saw...and she hid him (ULT)
When she saw...wanted...keep him alive...
she...to...so she} hid him (UST)**

Hiding the boy was a result of seeing that he was good. Alternative translation: “Since she saw ... she hid him” (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

**three (ULT)
for three (UST)**

3 (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And...conceived](#)
- [a son](#)
- [good](#)
- [months](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [became pregnant](#)
- [a baby boy](#)
- [was a healthy baby](#)
- [months](#)

ULT

² And the woman [conceived](#), and she birthed [a son](#). And she saw him, that he was [good](#), and she hid him three [months](#).

UST

² She [became pregnant](#) and had [a baby boy](#). When she saw that he [was a healthy baby](#), she {[wanted to keep him alive](#), so she} hid him for three [months](#).

Exodus 2:3

an ark of papyrus reeds (ULT)
a basket made from tall reeds (UST)

The **ark** is a basket made from a tall grass (**papyrus reeds**) that grows by the Nile River in Egypt. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and she daubed it with bitumen and with pitch (ULT)
She covered the basket with tar {so it would float in water (UST)

You could explicitly state that this was to keep out water. Alternate translation: “and she daubed it with bitumen and with pitch to keep water from getting into it” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

and she daubed it (ULT)
She covered the basket (UST)

This means that she applied a waterproof coating. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

with bitumen (ULT)
with tar {so it would float in water (UST)

This is a sticky black substance made from oil. It can be used to keep out water. Alternate translation: “with tar” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and with pitch (ULT)
with tar...so it would float in water (UST)

This is a sticky brown or black substance that can be made from tree sap. It too can be used to keep out water. Alternate translation: “and with tar” or “and with resin” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

in the reeds (ULT)
in the middle of the tall reeds (UST)

These **reeds** were a type of tall grass with wide blades that formed a flat surface when woven together. They grew in flat, wet areas. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- an ark of
- the child
- in the reeds
- the river

ULT

³ And she was not able to hide him still, and she took for him **an ark of** papyrus reeds and she daubed it with bitumen and with pitch. And she placed **the child** in it, and she placed it **in the reeds** along the shore of **the river**.

UST

³ When she was unable to hide him any longer, she got **a basket** made from tall reeds. She covered the basket with tar {so it would float in water}. Then she put **the baby** in the basket and put the basket in **the water**. It was at the edge of **the Nile River, in the middle of the tall reeds**.

Translation Words - UST

- a basket
- the baby
- the water...the Nile River
- in the middle of the tall reeds

Exodus 2:4

And his sister stationed herself at a distance (ULT)

His {older} sister hid nearby (UST)

This means she stood far enough away so that she would not be noticed, but close enough to see the ark. Use a word that expresses this sort of distance in your language.

at a distance (ULT)
nearby (UST)

This probably means somewhere in the reeds where she could see the basket, but no one would see her. If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **distance** in another way. Alternate translation: “not far away” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

his sister (ULT)

His {older} sister (UST)

Here, the actions of **his sister** show that she was older. If your language uses a different term for siblings based on their relative ages or the gender of the siblings or both, use one that means “a boy’s older sister.” (See: [Kinship](#))

to know what would be done to him (ULT)
so she could find out what would happen to him (UST)

This is her purpose in being close by. Use a natural way in your language for indicating purpose. Alternative translation: “in order to learn what would happen to him” (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- his sister
- to know

Translation Words - UST

- His {older} sister
- so she could find out

ULT

⁴ And his sister stationed herself at a distance to know what would be done to him.

UST

⁴ His {older} sister hid nearby so she could find out what would happen to him.

Exodus 2:5

And...came down (ULT) Soon...went down (UST)

Came down may be literal or figurative, as important places are often considered to be in a higher place. This means she came from her home, probably Pharaoh's palace. If a perspective is required for Pharaoh's daughter, you may choose go or come as works best in your language. "Come" is better as the scene is at the river and she comes to the scene location. However, you also need to consider your language's way of introducing new participants. (See: [Go and Come](#))

And a daughter of Pharaoh came down (ULT) Soon the king's daughter went down (UST)

The **daughter of Pharaoh** is introduced here as a new participant. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new character. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

and her young women (ULT) Her female servants (UST)

These women are introduced here as new participants; however, they are not mentioned again after this verse. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

along the hand of the river (ULT) along the riverbank (UST)

Here, **hand** is a metaphor for side or, as relating to a river, shore. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could simply translate the meaning. (See: [Metaphor](#))

and her young women (ULT) Her female servants (UST)

These were the young women whose job it was to be with her and make sure nothing bad happened to her.

and she took it (ULT) When the servant brought it back,} the king's daughter took it from her (UST)

It is not clear who is meant by **she** here, either Pharaoh's daughter or the servant. It is likely that Pharaoh's daughter remains the subject. Alternative translation: "and she took the ark from her slave" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- the river
- the river

ULT

⁵ And a daughter of **Pharaoh** came down to wash at **the river**, and **her young women** were walking along **the hand of the river**. And she saw **the ark** in the middle of **the reeds**, and she sent **her slave woman**, and she took it

UST

⁵ Soon **the king's** daughter went down to **the river** to take a bath. **Her female servants** walked along **the riverbank**. She saw **the basket** in **the tall reeds in the river**, so she sent **one of her servants to get it**. {When the servant brought it back,} the king's daughter took it from her

- and her young women
- her slave woman
- the hand of
- the ark
- the reeds
- and she sent

Translation Words - UST

- the king's
- the river
- the riverbank
- Her female servants
- one of her servants to get it
- the riverbank
- the basket
- the tall reeds in the river
- so she sent

Exodus 2:6

and behold (ULT) was surprised (UST)

The word **behold** signals the surprising information that follows.
(See: [Exclamations](#))

And she had compassion on him (ULT) She pitied him (UST)

The text does not state exactly what caused her to have compassion on the baby. If a reason must be provided in your language, it should be connected to either his crying (this is the better option) or that he was a “good” baby ([verse 2](#)). (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

This one is from the children of the Hebrews (ULT) This must be a Hebrew baby (UST)

This is a direct quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with first-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation. It seems to have been said loud enough for the baby’s sister to hear. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the child](#)
- [from the children of](#)
- [crying](#)
- [a...boy](#)
- [And she had compassion](#)
- [the Hebrews](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a baby inside](#)
- [must be...baby](#)
- [that](#)
- [was crying](#)
- [She pitied](#)
- [a Hebrew](#)

ULT

⁶ and opened, and she saw him, [the child](#)—and behold, a [crying boy](#). [And she had compassion](#) on him, and she said, “This one is [from the children of the Hebrews](#).”

UST

⁶ and she opened it and was surprised to see [a baby inside that was crying](#). [She pitied](#) him and said, “This [must be a Hebrew baby](#).”

Exodus 2:7

and call for you a nursing woman from the Hebrews (ULT)

Do you want me to go...and find a Hebrew woman who will be able to nurse (UST)

This is a suggestive question. The child's sister is hopeful that Pharaoh's daughter does not yet have a plan for the baby beyond saving his life. However, it is still a true question, for without Pharaoh's daughter's permission, the child's sister will not be able to fetch the woman. If your language has a way of forming questions that are also suggestions, use it here.

nursing...And she could cause...to nurse (ULT) who will be able to nurse...who will be able to nurse (UST)

Here, **nursing** or **to nurse** means to feed with milk from the breast.

And she could cause the child to nurse for you (ULT) who will be able to nurse...the baby for you (UST)

This is the purpose of the sister's proposal. Use a natural way in your language for indicating purpose. Alternative translation: "And she could nurse the infant for you" (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- his sister
- Pharaoh
- and call
- the Hebrews
- the child

Translation Words - UST

- the baby's {older} sister
- the king's
- and find
- a Hebrew woman
- the baby

ULT

⁷ And his sister said to the daughter of Pharaoh, "Should I go and call for you a nursing woman from the Hebrews? And she could cause the child to nurse for you."

UST

⁷ Then the baby's {older} sister {walked up} to the king's daughter and said, "Do you want me to go and find a Hebrew woman who will be able to nurse the baby for you?"

Exodus 2:8

Go...And...went (ULT)

Yes, go and find one...So...went (UST)

The girl left Pharaoh's daughter to go to the child's mother. The girl was almost certainly on foot. Use verbs of motion that express this. (See: [Go and Come](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the...Pharaoh](#)
- [Go](#)
- [And...went](#)
- [and called](#)
- [the child](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The king's daughter](#)
- [Yes, go and find one](#)
- [So...went](#)
- [and found...and brought her to the king's daughter](#)
- [the baby's mother](#)

ULT

⁸ And the daughter of [Pharaoh](#) said to her, "[Go](#)." And the girl [went and called](#) the mother of [the child](#).

UST

⁸ [The king's daughter](#) said to her, "[Yes, go and find one](#)." [So](#) the girl [went and found the baby's mother](#) {[and brought her to the king's daughter](#)}.

Exodus 2:9

to her (ULT) to the mother (UST)

The child's mother is reintroduced as a participant. Use the natural form in your language for reintroducing a character. Alternative translation: "to the baby's mother" (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

your wages (ULT) will pay you for doing that (UST)

This refers to payment that Pharaoh's daughter would give to the mother in exchange for her service of nursing the baby.

And...took...and caused him to nurse (ULT) So...agreed,} took...and nursed him (UST)

The mother's acceptance of the deal is implied. You could make it explicit, as in the UST. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the...Pharaoh
- child
- the child

Translation Words - UST

- The king's daughter
- baby
- him

ULT

⁹ And the daughter of [Pharaoh](#) said to her, "Take this [child](#) and cause him to nurse for me, and I shall give your wages." And the woman took [the child](#) and caused him to nurse.

UST

⁹ [The king's daughter](#) said to the mother, "Please take this [baby](#) and nurse him for me. I will pay you for doing that." So the baby's mother {agreed,} took [him](#), and nursed him.

Exodus 2:10

And the child grew older, and she brought him (ULT)
When he had gotten bigger, his mother brought the boy (UST)

And the child grew older marks an unspecified amount of time. He would have stayed with his mother at least until he was weaned (no longer feeding on his mother's milk). (See: [Connect — Sequential Time Relationship](#))

and he became as a son to her (ULT)
She adopted him (UST)

Alternate translation: "and he became the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter"

and he became as a son to her. And she called his name Moses (ULT)
She adopted him...I will call him Moses (UST)

These events were likely simultaneous, because her act of naming him may have been what made him become **as a son to her**. Consider using a conjunction that does not make a great separation between these events. (See: [Connect — Simultaneous Time Relationship](#))

Moses, and she said, "For out of the water I drew him (ULT)
and said, "I pulled him out of the water, so...Moses (UST)

Translators may add a footnote that says, "The name Moses sounds like the Hebrew word that means 'draw out.'"

and she said, "For out of the water I drew him (ULT)
and said, "I pulled him out of the water, so (UST)

For begins a direct quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with first-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation. If it would be more natural in your language, you could express this as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: "because she said she drew him out of the water" (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the child](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [as a son](#)
- [And she called](#)
- [his name](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the water](#)

ULT

¹⁰ And [the child](#) grew older, and she brought him to the daughter of [Pharaoh](#), and he became [as a son](#) to her. [And she called his name Moses](#), and she said, "For out of [the water](#) I drew him."

UST

¹⁰ When [he](#) had gotten bigger, his mother brought the boy [to the king's daughter](#). [She adopted him](#) and said, "I pulled him out of [the water](#), so [I will call him Moses](#)."

Translation Words - UST

- he
- to the king's daughter
- She adopted him
- the water
- I will call him
- I will call him
- Moses

Exodus 2:11

And it happened in those days that Moses had grown up. And he went out (ULT)

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out {of the palace area (UST)}

A significant amount of time has passed; later texts state that Moses was 40 years old at this point. Alternative translation: "Many years later, once Moses was grown, he went out" (See: [Connect — Sequential Time Relationship](#))

This introduces a new event in the story. In your language, use a phrase that indicates a new event occurring after significant time has passed. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

And he went out (ULT)
he went out {of the palace area (UST)}

The UST supplies a probable location that he **went out** from; it could also have been simply out from the Egyptian area or out to the work area or cities. Use go or come as appropriate in your language. (See: [Go and Come](#))

striking a Hebrew man (ULT)
beating...the Hebrews (UST)

Alternate translation: "hitting a Hebrew" or "beating a Hebrew"

Translation Words - ULT

- in...days
- Moses
- his brothers
- from his brothers
- their burdens
- Egyptian
- Hebrew

Translation Words - UST

- One day
- Moses
- the hard work...had to do
- his people
- one of his people
- an Egyptian
- the Hebrews

ULT

¹¹ And it happened in those [days](#) that [Moses](#) had grown up. And he went out to [his brothers](#) and saw [their burdens](#). And he saw an [Egyptian](#) man striking a [Hebrew](#) man [from his brothers](#).

UST

¹¹ [One day](#), after [Moses](#) had grown up, he went out {of the palace area} to see [the hard work his people had to do](#). He also saw an [Egyptian](#) beating [one of his people, the Hebrews](#).

Exodus 2:12

And he turned this way and that way (ULT) He looked around {to see if anyone was watching (UST)

These two opposite directions have the combined meaning of “everywhere.” If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “He looked all around” (See: [Merism](#))

and he struck (ULT) he killed (UST)

The context makes clear that Moses struck the Egyptian hard enough or repeatedly until Moses killed him. Consider using a word that indicates a deadly blow. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And he turned](#)
- [and he struck](#)
- [the Egyptian](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [He looked around {to see if anyone was watching](#)
- [he killed](#)
- [the Egyptian man](#)

ULT

¹² [And he turned](#) this way and that way, and he saw that there was no man, [and he struck the Egyptian](#), and he hid him in the sand.

UST

¹² [He looked around {to see if anyone was watching}](#). Seeing no one, [he killed the Egyptian man](#) and buried his body in the sand.

Exodus 2:13

And he went out (ULT) he was out again (UST)

See how you translated this in [Exodus 2:11](#). (See: [Go and Come](#))

second (ULT) The next (UST)

The ordinal number here could mean “the next day” (UST) or simply on some day following the events of the previous verse. (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

and behold (ULT) He was surprised to see (UST)

Here, **behold** shows that Moses was surprised by what he saw. You can use a word in your language that will give this meaning. (See: [Exclamations](#))

to the guilty one (ULT) to the man who started the fight (UST)

Based on Moses’ question, this means the aggressor or the man wrongfully attacking his neighbor. Alternate translation: “the man who was guilty of starting the fight”

Translation Words - ULT

- [the...day](#)
- [Hebrew](#)
- [to the guilty one](#)
- [your companion](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [day](#)
- [Hebrew](#)
- [to the man who started the fight](#)
- [your fellow Hebrew](#)

ULT

¹³ And he went out the second [day](#), and behold, two [Hebrew](#) men were fighting. And he said [to the guilty one](#), “Why are you striking [your companion](#)?”

UST

¹³ The next [day](#) he was out again. He was surprised to see two [Hebrew](#) men fighting each other. He said [to the man who started the fight](#), “Why are you hitting [your fellow Hebrew](#)?”

Exodus 2:14

Who set you as the ruler man and judge over us (ULT)

No one put you in charge of judging us (UST)

The man is not asking a question, he is using this question to rebuke Moses for intervening in the fight. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "You are not our leader and have no right to judge us!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Are you saying to kill me like you killed the Egyptian (ULT)

Do not think you {will get away with} killing me like you killed that Egyptian yesterday (UST)

The man used a question here to be sarcastic. Alternate translation: "We know that you killed an Egyptian yesterday. You had better not kill me!" (See: [Irony](#))

Are you saying to kill me like you killed the Egyptian (ULT)

Do not think you {will get away with} killing me like you killed that Egyptian yesterday (UST)

Again, the man asks a question that is intended to make a statement. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "Do you think you could kill me without anyone finding out? We know what you did to the Egyptian" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Are you saying to kill me (ULT)

Do not think you {will get away with} killing me (UST)

Alternate translation: "Are you planning to kill me" or "Are you threatening to kill me"

and said (ULT)

because he thought (UST)

Certainly the thing is known was likely something Moses said to himself, that is, he thought it to himself rather than speaking to the men in front of him. If this would be confusing in your language, you might introduce it as a thought. Alternate translation: "and thought" (See: [Aside](#))

and said, "Certainly the thing is known (ULT)

because he thought, "Everyone knows what I did (UST)

It may be clearer to present what was likely a thought Moses had as an indirect quotation. Alternative translation (as indirect quotation): "because he thought that everyone knew what he had done" (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

ULT

¹⁴ And he said, "Who set you as **the ruler man and judge** over us? Are you saying **to kill me** like **you killed the Egyptian?**" And **Moses feared** and said, "Certainly the thing **is known.**"

UST

¹⁴ The man replied, "No one **put you in charge of judging** us! Do not think you {will get away with} **killing me** like **you killed that Egyptian yesterday!**" Then **Moses was afraid**, because he thought, "**Everyone knows** what I did."

Translation Words - ULT

- the ruler
- and judge
- Are...to kill me
- you killed
- the Egyptian
- Moses
- And...feared
- is known

Translation Words - UST

- put you in charge
- of judging
- killing me
- you killed
- that Egyptian yesterday
- Moses
- Then...was afraid
- Everyone knows

Exodus 2:15

thing, and he sought to kill...Moses (ULT)
that Moses killed an Egyptian, he ordered {his soldiers} to kill...Moses (UST)

Pharaoh most likely delegated this task. Alternative translation: "and he sought to have Moses killed" (note that the passive form will not work in every language)

from the face of (ULT)
from (UST)

His **face** means his presence. Alternate translation: "from" (See: [Metonymy](#))

And he dwelt...And he dwelt (ULT)
and started to live...and started to live (UST)

In Hebrew, these are the same verb. In English, they could be translated as "settle," which can mean to dwell in a certain place, but it can also mean to lower one's body into a seated position. This could mean: (1) Moses lived in Midian. He sat by this well one day. This may have been the well for the town he lived in. (2) Moses lived in Midian. His home was by this well. (3) Moses was a wanderer. He was in Midian and sat by this well when the next event occurred.

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- Pharaoh
- and he sought
- to kill
- Moses
- Moses
- the...Midian

Translation Words - UST

- the king
- the king
- he ordered {his soldiers
- to kill
- Moses
- Moses
- to the region of Midian...there

ULT

¹⁵ And **Pharaoh** heard this thing, **and he sought to kill Moses**. And **Moses** fled from the face of **Pharaoh**. And he dwelt in the land of **Midian**, and he sat down by a well.

UST

¹⁵ When **the king** heard that Moses killed an Egyptian, **he ordered {his soldiers} to kill Moses**. But **Moses** ran away from **the king** {and left Egypt. He traveled east} **to the region of Midian** and started to live **there**. {One day as} Moses was sitting beside a well,

Exodus 2:16

**And the priest of Midian had seven daughters (ULT)
seven women...They were all the daughters of the man who was the priest for the Midianites (UST)**

This sentence is background information. Use the natural form in your language for expressing background information. (See: [Background Information](#))

**And the priest of Midian had seven daughters (ULT)
seven women...They were all the daughters of the man who was the priest for the Midianites (UST)**

This sentence marks a scene transition. However, the last clause of the previous verse (“and he sat down by a well”) seems to be related to this new scene, so you may want to make your transition before that, as is done in the UST. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

**daughters (ULT)
women...They were all the daughters of (UST)**

The **daughters** are new participants. Use the natural form in your language for introducing new characters. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

**And they came (ULT)
came to the well (UST)**

The perspective of the narrative is set at the well. The daughters came from elsewhere to the well. They were probably on foot. Here each language will need to choose the appropriate motion word. (See: [Go and Come](#))

**seven (ULT)
seven (UST)**

7 (See: [Numbers](#))

**and drew (ULT)
They got water (UST)**

This means that they brought up water from a well.

**the troughs (ULT)
the troughs (UST)**

The **troughs** were long, narrow, open containers for animals to eat or drink out of. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

ULT

16 And the priest of Midian had seven daughters. And they came and drew and filled up the troughs to cause the flock of their father to drink water.

UST

16 seven women came to the well. They were all the daughters of the man who was the priest for the Midianites. They got water and filled the troughs in order to give water to their father's sheep and goats.

Translation Words - ULT

- And the priest of...had
- Midian
- the flock of
- their father

Translation Words - UST

- the man who was the priest for the Midianites
- the man who was the priest for the Midianites
- their father's
- sheep and goats

Exodus 2:17

And...came (ULT)

came (UST)

A group of **men came**. They may not have been far away before coming and driving the women away. Use an appropriate form of moving verb. (See: [Go and Come](#))

the men who were shepherding (ULT)

Some shepherds (UST)

These are new characters only seen briefly. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

but...arose (ULT)

But...got up (UST)

Use an expression that communicates that what Moses did was unexpected. (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the men who were shepherding](#)
- [and drove them away](#)
- [but...arose](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [and saved them](#)
- [their flock](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Some shepherds](#)
- [and {started to} chase them away](#)
- [But...got up](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [and rescued them](#)
- [their sheep and goats](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And [the men who were shepherding](#) came [and drove them away](#), but Moses [arose and saved them](#) and caused [their flock](#) to drink water.

UST

¹⁷ [Some shepherds](#) came [and {started to} chase them away](#). But Moses [got up and rescued them](#) and helped [their sheep and goats](#) to drink.

Exodus 2:18

And they came (ULT)

When his daughters returned (UST)

The daughters came from the well to their father, probably on foot. You can use either come or go, whichever is more natural. (See: [Go and Come](#))

Reuel (ULT)

home...Jethro...who people also called} Reuel (UST)

Reuel, a name or perhaps a title, is used of the man only here and in Numbers 10:29. He is otherwise called "Jethro." (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Reuel (ULT)

home...Jethro...who people also called} Reuel (UST)

The priest of Midian was mentioned in [v. 16](#) in a background statement but is a new character starting here. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new character. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

and he said, "Why have you hurried coming today (ULT)

asked them, "How did you get back {from taking care of the sheep} so quickly today (UST)

If it would be more natural in your language, you could express this as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: "and he asked how they were able to return so quickly that day" (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

coming (ULT)

get back {from taking care of the sheep (UST)

Alternative translation: "in returning" (See: [Go and Come](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Reuel](#)
- [their father](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [home...Jethro...who people also called} Reuel](#)
- [their father](#)

ULT

¹⁸ And they came to [Reuel their father](#), and he said, "Why have you hurried coming today?"

UST

¹⁸ When his daughters returned {[home](#)}, [their father](#) {[Jethro \(who people also called} Reuel](#)} asked them, "How did you get back {from taking care of the sheep} so quickly today?"

Exodus 2:19

An Egyptian man (ULT)

A man from Egypt (UST)

Jethro's daughters assume Moses was Egyptian. When you translate it, you should be clear that this refers to Moses.

from the hand of (ULT)

kept...from chasing us away (UST)

Here, **hand** figuratively refers to the power, control, or actions of the shepherds. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternative translation: "from the strength of" or "from the harm of" (See: [Metonymy](#))

he...drew especially (ULT)

He...got water...from the well (UST)

This expresses surprise or emphasizes the magnitude of Moses' act of kindness to the women. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression from your language. (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [An Egyptian](#)
- [rescued us](#)
- [from the hand of](#)
- [the men who were shepherding](#)
- [the flock](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [from Egypt](#)
- [kept...from chasing us away](#)
- [kept...from chasing us away](#)
- [the other shepherds](#)
- [to the sheep](#)

ULT

¹⁹ And they said, "An Egyptian man rescued us from the hand of the men who were shepherding. And he even drew especially for us and caused the flock to drink water."

UST

¹⁹ They replied, "A man from Egypt kept the other shepherds from chasing us away. He also got water for us from the well and gave water to the sheep."

Exodus 2:20

And where is he? What is this? You left the man (ULT)

By leaving him at the well, you did not show this man that we welcome strangers or even repay his kind act (UST)

These questions are a mild rebuke to the daughters for not inviting Moses into their home according to the normal hospitality of that culture. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "You should not have left this man at the well!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

him (ULT)

him (UST)

Here, **him** refers to Moses. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

bread (ULT)

something (UST)

Here, **bread** is used to refer to food in general. If this would be misunderstood in your language, you could use an equivalent expression from your culture or plain language. Alternative translation: "food" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- You left
- Call
- bread

Translation Words - UST

- By leaving...at the well, you did not show...that we welcome strangers or even repay his kind act
- Invite...in...So they did
- something

ULT

²⁰ And he said to his daughters, "And where is he? What is this? **You left** the man? **Call** him and he shall eat **bread!**"

UST

²⁰ He said to his daughters, "**By leaving** him **at the well, you did not show** this man **that we welcome strangers or even repay his kind act. Invite** him in so that he can have **something** to eat!" {**So they did**, and Moses ate with them.}

Exodus 2:21

And Moses was willing to dwell with the man (ULT)

Jethro {invited Moses} to stay with his family and Moses accepted {his offer (UST)}

Alternate translation: "Moses agreed to live with Reuel"

Zipporah (ULT)

Zipporah (UST)

Zipporah is Reuel's (Jethro's) daughter. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [to Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses...to be his wife](#)

ULT

²¹ And [Moses](#) was willing to dwell with the man, and he gave Zipporah his daughter [to Moses](#).

UST

²¹ Jethro {invited Moses} to stay with his family and [Moses](#) accepted {his offer}. Jethro gave [Moses](#) his daughter Zipporah {[to be his wife](#)}.

Exodus 2:22

I have become a foreigner in a foreign land

(ULT)

I am a foreigner living in a place foreign to me

(UST)

Only this portion is a quotation. As a possibility for clarity, the UST includes both speech events as one quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with first-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Gershom (ULT)

Gershom (UST)

His name, **Gershom**, sounds somewhat like the Hebrew for “a stranger here.” You may consider using a footnote to explain that. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

I have become a foreigner in a foreign land (ULT)

I am a foreigner living in a place foreign to me (UST)

Alternate translation: “stranger in a foreign land”

Translation Words - ULT

- a son
- and he called
- his name
- a foreigner
- foreign
- in a...land

Translation Words - UST

- to {their first} son
- foreigner
- foreign to me
- in a place
- I will name him
- I will name him

ULT

²² And she birthed a son, and he called his name Gershom; for he said, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.”

UST

²² When she gave birth to {their first} son, Moses said, “I am a foreigner living in a place foreign to me, so I will name him Gershom.”

Exodus 2:23

And it happened in these many days that the king of Egypt died (ULT)
Many years went by. During that time, the king of Egypt died (UST)

This introduces a new section and series of events. A large amount of time went by. According to Stephen's sermon in Acts 7:30, Moses was in Midian 40 years. Alternative translation: "This is what happened during the many days Moses was in Midian. The king of Egypt died." (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Verses 23-25 give a summary of what happened in Egypt and with the Israelites and God while Moses was in exile. These verses give background information to set the scene. Use the natural form in your language for expressing background information. (See: [Background Information](#))

And...groaned (ULT)
were still groaning (UST)

They **groaned** because of their sorrow and misery. Alternate translation: "sighed deeply"

and their plea ascended to God (ULT)
They cried...to God...in heaven (UST)

The **plea** of the Israelites are spoken of as if they were a person and were able to travel up to where God is. If this might be confusing for your readers, you could express this meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "and God heard their pleading" (See: [Personification](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- in...days
- the king of
- Egypt
- that...died
- the sons of
- Israel
- the slavery
- their slavery
- And they cried out
- their plea
- God

Translation Words - UST

- Many years went by. During that time
- the king
- of Egypt
- died
- The Israelites in Egypt

ULT

²³ And it happened in these many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel groaned from the slavery. And they cried out, and their plea ascended to God from their slavery.

UST

²³ Many years went by. During that time, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites in Egypt were still groaning because of the hard work they had to do as slaves. They cried to God in heaven because of the work.

- The Israelites in Egypt
- of the hard work they had to do as slaves
- the work
- They cried...in heaven
- They cried...in heaven
- God

Exodus 2:24

and God remembered (ULT) he thought about (UST)

This a common biblical way of saying that God thought about what He had promised. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression from your language. Alternate translation: "and God recalled" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- God
- God
- their groaning
- his covenant
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob

Translation Words - UST

- he
- he
- them groaning
- his promise
- to Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob

ULT

²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

UST

²⁴ When he heard them groaning, he thought about his promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Exodus 2:25

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- God
- God
- the sons of
- Israel
- and...knew

Translation Words - UST

- God
- he
- the} Israelites
- the} Israelites
- and...comprehended

ULT

²⁵ And God saw the sons of Israel, and God knew.

UST

²⁵ God saw {how the} Israelites {were being badly treated}, and he comprehended.

Exodus 3

Exodus 3 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

This chapter is one conversation in which Yahweh begins to commission and send Moses to rescue the Israelites.

This chapter records one of the most important events in the history of the Israelite people: the revelation of the name Yahweh at the burning bush. (See: [reveal](#), [revealed](#), [revelation](#))

Special Concepts in this Chapter

God's holiness

God is so holy that people can not look upon him without dying. This is why Moses covered his eyes. It is also why he took off his shoes. (See: [holy](#), [holiness](#), [unholy](#), [sacred](#) and [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Yahweh

The name Yahweh is the personal name of God, which he revealed to Moses. Yahweh is probably related to the phrase "I am" which he tells Moses in verse 14. Some translations use all capitals to set this apart: "I AM." Great care must be taken in translating the phrase "I am that I am." (See: [Yahweh](#))

Possible Translation Difficulties in this Chapter

Participants

"The angel of Yahweh," "Yahweh," and "God" all appear to be speaking to Moses and interacting with him from the burning bush. Furthermore, God says that his name is "I AM." (See note above on Yahweh and I AM.) Yahweh and God are the same, while there is speculation about who the angel of Yahweh is.

Exodus 3:1

And Moses was shepherding (ULT) Moses, on the other hand, was taking care (UST)

This phrase brings the story focus back to Midian and Moses. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Verse 1 provides immediate background context, setting the scene for Moses' interaction with Yahweh. Use the natural form in your language for expressing background information. (See: [Background Information](#))

the priest of Midian (ULT) who was a priest to the Midianite people (UST)

This is a possessive of social relationship. **Jethro** is a **priest** who serves the Midianites. (See: [Possession](#))

and he came to (ULT) He came to (UST)

Alternate translation: "and he arrived at" (See: [Go and Come](#))

the mountain of God (ULT) a mountain where God {would reveal himself to Moses and later to the Israelites (UST)

This is an associative possessive. This mountain was associated with God in some way. In [Exodus 3:12](#) God tells Moses that he and the Israelites will serve him on this mountain. Later in the story, this promise is fulfilled, and it is where God makes his covenant with Israel and gives them the 10 Commandments. So it may have been called **the mountain of God** in retrospect (as Moses probably wrote this book sometime after the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness). However, it is possible that the mountain was already somehow associated with God's presence or worship before Moses went there with the flock. (See: [Possession](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And Moses](#)
- [shepherding](#)
- [the flock of](#)
- [the flock](#)
- [Jethro](#)
- [the priest of](#)
- [Midian](#)
- [the wilderness](#)
- [God](#)
- [to Horeb](#)

ULT

¹ And Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock beyond the wilderness, and he came to the mountain of God, to Horeb.

UST

¹ Moses, on the other hand, was taking care of the sheep that belonged to Jethro (his father-in-law who was a priest to the Midianite people.) One day, he took the flock to the far side of the wildland. He came to a mountain where God {would reveal himself to Moses and later to the Israelites} called Horeb.

Translation Words - UST

- Moses, on the other hand
- taking care
- of the sheep
- the flock
- that belonged to Jethro
- who was a priest
- to the Midianite people
- the wildland
- God
- called Horeb

Exodus 3:2

**And the angel of Yahweh appeared to him in a flame of fire from the middle of a bush (ULT)
While he was there, Yahweh's messenger appeared to Moses as a fire inside a bush (UST)**

This is a summary of what happened. The next few verses tell the story of how this happened and how Moses discovered what was happening.

**Yahweh (ULT)
Yahweh's (UST)**

This is the name of God that he revealed to his people in the Old Testament. See the translationWord page about Yahweh concerning how to translate this.

**and behold, the bush was burning in the fire, but the bush was not being consumed (ULT)
at the burning bush, amazed that the fire was not burning it completely to ashes (UST)**

The word **behold** here shows that Moses saw something that was very different from what he expected. He expected the bush to be burnt up completely by the fire. Consider using an interjection in your language that expresses that what follows is a surprise. (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

**being consumed (ULT)
was...burning...completely to ashes (UST)**

Here, **being consumed** means being eaten completely until gone. In the case of fire, this is a metonym for burning completely until gone. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "destroyed by the fire" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the angel of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [fire](#)
- [in the fire](#)
- [being consumed](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh's](#)
- [messenger](#)
- [as a fire](#)
- [the fire](#)
- [was...burning...completely to ashes](#)

ULT

² And [the angel of Yahweh](#) appeared to him in a flame of [fire](#) from the middle of a bush. And he looked, and behold, the bush was burning [in the fire](#), but the bush was not [being consumed](#).

UST

² While he was there, [Yahweh's messenger](#) appeared to Moses [as a fire](#) inside a bush. Moses stared at the burning bush, amazed that [the fire](#) was not [burning it completely to ashes](#).

Exodus 3:3

Let me turn aside and see this great sight!

Why does the bush not burn up (ULT)

I will go closer to see this strange thing! Why is the bush not burning up (UST)

This is a direct quote. It's not specified who Moses spoke to; he may have been alone or with a group of shepherds or his family. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with first-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

great sight (ULT)

strange thing (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for something strange that someone sees, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **sight** in another way. Alternate translation: "unusual thing that I see" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Let me turn aside](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [He](#)
- [I will go closer](#)

ULT

³ And [Moses](#) said, "[Let me turn aside](#) and see this great sight! Why does the bush not burn up?"

UST

³ [He](#) thought, "[I will go closer](#) to see this strange thing! Why is the bush not burning up?"

Exodus 3:4

Yahweh...God (ULT)

Yahweh...he (UST)

These terms both refer to the same being, since God's name is Yahweh.

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- he had turned aside
- God
- and...called
- Moses
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses coming for a closer look
- he
- called out
- Moses
- Moses

ULT

⁴ And Yahweh saw that he had turned aside in order to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush, and he said, "Moses, Moses." And he said, "Behold me!"

UST

⁴ When Yahweh saw Moses coming for a closer look, he called out from the bush, "Moses, Moses!" "Yes!" Moses replied.

Exodus 3:5

for the place on which you are standing, it is holy ground (ULT)

because you are standing on ground that is sacred {because it is near me (UST)}

This is the reason Moses must stop coming close to the burning bush and take off his sandals. If it would be more natural in your language, you could put the reason before the commands, as in, "The place on which you are standing, it is holy ground, so you must not come close to here. Take your sandals off from on your feet." (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [your sandals](#)
- [holy](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Take off your sandals...to honor me](#)
- [that is sacred...because it is near me](#)

ULT

⁵ And he said, "You must not come close to here. Take [your sandals](#) off from on your feet, for the place on which you are standing, it is [holy](#) ground."

UST

⁵ Yahweh said, "[Take off your sandals {to honor me}](#) before you come any closer, because you are standing on ground [that is sacred {because it is near me.}](#)"

Exodus 3:6

I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (ULT)

I am...God, the one that your father, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all worshiped (UST)

All of these men worshiped the same God. Alternate translation: "the God of your father, of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob"

I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (ULT)

I am...God, the one that your father, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all worshiped (UST)

This a direct quotation. The UST continues the quotation from verse 5 rather than including an additional "he said." This may be more natural in some languages. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate the direct quotation with first-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

your father (ULT)

the one that your father...all worshiped (UST)

This could mean (1) "your father," if it means "your father," then it refers to Moses' own father (2) "your ancestor," if it means "your ancestor," then the phrases following it clarify who "your father" refers to: it refers to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In most cases, it will be best to translate it as "your father," i.e. Amram, Moses' father.

And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid from staring toward God (ULT)

Moses was afraid {that God would kill him if he} looked at him, so he covered his face (UST)

Reason: **for he was afraid from staring toward God** Result: **And Moses hid his face** If it would be more natural in your language, you could reverse the order of these phrases, since the second phrase gives the reason for the result that the first phrase describes. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#) and [Exodus 33:20](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the God of
- the God of
- the God of
- and the God of
- God
- your father
- he was afraid
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob

ULT

⁶ And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid from staring toward God.

UST

⁶ I am God, the one that your father, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all worshiped." Moses was afraid {that God would kill him if he} looked at him, so he covered his face.

- Moses
- his face

Translation Words - UST

- God
- Abraham
- Isaac
- and Jacob
- God...him
- the one that your father...all worshiped
- was afraid {that...would kill him
- his face
- Abraham
- Isaac
- and Jacob
- Moses...he

Exodus 3:7

And Yahweh said (ULT) Then Yahweh said (UST)

After this phrase, a direct quote begins that continues through the end of [verse 10](#). It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

I have certainly seen (ULT) I have watched closely (UST)

The Hebrew practice of verb repetition for intensification cannot be directly translated into English. Here, “see” is repeated in Hebrew. This expresses the intensity, certainty, or clarity of Yahweh’s having **seen** how his people were suffering. Use a natural form of strengthening a verb from your language. (See: [Idiom](#))

the affliction of my people (ULT) how badly the Egyptians are treating my people (UST)

There are two possessives here: (1) “affliction of ... people”: This is an event-related possessive where the people are the objects of affliction. They are treated badly as slaves. (2) “my people”: This one is more difficult as it involves both ownership and the possessive of social relationship. God views his people as his possession, and he is also in relationship with them as their God because they are descended from Abraham, though at this time they may not know God as theirs. (See: [Possession](#))

the affliction of...my people who are in Egypt (ULT) how badly the Egyptians are treating...my people in Egypt (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **affliction** in another way. Alternate translation: “how my people who are in Egypt are afflicted” or “how the Egyptians afflict my people” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

from the faces of those who oppress him (ULT) because of what the slave drivers are making them do (UST)

Here, **faces** refers to the whole person or the presence of the person(s) who were oppressing the Israelites. If this image is used in your language, you may translate it. If a similar image is used, you may consider using it. If neither is the case, you may omit the word “face” and translate the meaning. (See: [Metonymy](#))

those who oppress him (ULT) what the slave drivers are making them do (UST)

Alternate translation: “his oppressors”

ULT

⁷ And Yahweh said, “I have certainly seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt. And I have heard their cries from the faces of those who oppress him. I surely know his anguish.

UST

⁷ Then Yahweh said, “I have watched closely how badly the Egyptians are treating my people in Egypt. I have heard my people shouting despairingly because of what the slave drivers are making them do. I am most certainly informed about how my people are suffering.

surely (ULT)
most certainly (UST)

Here, **surely** is intensifying the expression of Yahweh's knowledge. Your translation should express Yahweh's knowing with certainty or strength.

those who oppress him...his anguish (ULT)
what the slave drivers are making them do...about how my people are suffering (UST)

These pronouns, **him** and **his**, refer to the Israelites as a group in the singular. They agree with "people" as a collective noun in 3:6. Some languages may have to use plural pronouns. Others may have to match the pronoun's gender to the grammatical gender of the word for "people" in their language. If necessary, change "him" to "them" or change "his" to "hers" or "its" (depending on grammatical gender of "people.") Alternate translation: "those who oppress them ... their anguish" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

his anguish (ULT)
about how my people are suffering (UST)

This is an event-related possessive where the people (as a group: **his**) are the subjects of **anguish**. Your translation should express that they are deeply distressed. (See: [Possession](#))

his anguish (ULT)
about how my people are suffering (UST)

It is implied that they are deeply distressed because they are treated badly as slaves. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "his anguish from his slavery" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

his anguish (ULT)
about how my people are suffering (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **anguish** in another way. Alternate translation: "how distressed they are" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [the affliction of](#)
- [my people](#)
- [are in Egypt](#)
- [their cries](#)
- [those who oppress him](#)
- [I...know](#)
- [his anguish](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)

- how badly the Egyptians are treating
- my people
- in Egypt
- my people shouting despairingly
- what the slave drivers are making them do
- I am...informed
- about how my people are suffering

Exodus 3:8

Verse 8 contains God's intended result from his acts of seeing and hearing, expressed in both verses 7 and 9. You may need to expressly mark this, for instance by introducing verse 8 with something like "Therefore," and verse 9 with something like "Again, because." (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

And I have come down (ULT) **I am coming down from heaven (UST)**

God is figuratively expressing that he is descending from heaven to earth to intervene. God is always everywhere, but this phrase means that his special attention will be directed to this situation. Use whatever form of come or go is appropriate in your language for this. (See: [Go and Come](#))

to deliver him...and to bring him up (ULT) **to rescue them...I will lead them (UST)**

Here, **him** refers in the singular to the Israelites as a group. It is agreeing with "people" as a collective noun in [3:6](#). Some languages may have to use plural pronouns. Others may have to match the pronoun's gender to the grammatical gender of the word for "people" in their language. See what you did in the [previous verse](#). (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

from the hand of (ULT) **from being slaves (UST)**

Someone's **hand** is a common Biblical metaphor for power and control. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. (See: [Metaphor](#))

from the hand of the Egyptians (ULT) **from being slaves to the Egyptians (UST)**

This is a possessive where the Egyptians are the subject of **the hand**, which means power. The Egyptians used their power and control to oppress the Israelites. Use a phrase in your language that expresses the idea of a group of people having power. (See: [Possession](#))

to a good and wide land, to a land flowing with milk and honey (ULT) **to a fertile land with plenty of room. It will be very good for raising livestock and growing crops (UST)**

There are multiple levels of parallelism here. First, the statements, **to a good and wide land** and **to a land flowing with milk and honey** are in parallel with each other. Within each of those, **good** and **wide** are in parallel with each other, and **milk** and **honey** are in parallel with each other. Each of these levels is meant to reinforce and expand upon one another. These are not examples of synonymous parallelism, and each part of the statement should be translated. (See: [Parallelism](#))

ULT

⁸ And I have come down to deliver him from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring him up from that land to a good and wide land, to a land flowing with milk and honey; to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

UST

⁸ I am coming down from heaven to rescue them from being slaves to the Egyptians. I will lead them from Egypt to a fertile land with plenty of room. It will be very good for raising livestock and growing crops. The peoples called the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites live there now.

milk and honey (ULT) **raising livestock and growing crops (UST)**

Here, **milk** is a metonym for domestic animals and the food products obtained from them; **honey** is a metonym for the food obtained from growing plants. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. The next note explains further. (See: [Metonymy](#))

a land flowing with milk and honey (ULT) **It will be...very good for raising livestock and growing crops (UST)**

God spoke of the land being good for animals and plants as if the milk and honey from those animals and plants were flowing through the land. If this metaphor makes sense in your language, you may translate it. If your language has metaphors that mean a land is good for producing healthy livestock and good crops, you may consider using those. If neither is the case, you may translate the meaning. See UST. (See: [Metaphor](#))

flowing with (ULT) **very good for (UST)**

Alternate translation: "full of" or "with an abundance of"

milk (ULT) **raising livestock (UST)**

Since milk comes from cows and goats, this represents food produced by livestock. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "food from livestock" (See: [Metonymy](#))

and honey (ULT) **and growing crops (UST)**

Since honey is produced from flowers, this represents food from crops. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "food from crops" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [to deliver him](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [and the Perizzites](#)
- [and the Hivites](#)
- [and the Jebusites](#)
- [land](#)
- [a...land](#)
- [a land](#)
- [good](#)
- [and honey](#)
- [the Canaanites](#)
- [and the Hittites](#)
- [and the Amorites](#)

Translation Words - UST

- to rescue them
- to the Egyptians
- Perizzites
- Hivites
- and Jebusites
- from Egypt
- a...land
- It will be
- fertile
- and growing crops
- the Canaanites
- Hittites
- Amorites

Exodus 3:9

This verse parallels [verse 7](#). Yahweh is restating that the Israelite's plight has gotten his attention. This creates emphasis and connection to what Yahweh will do with what Moses will do as Yahweh's appointed leader. If this repetition would confuse your readers consider a paragraph break at the start of this verse to separate the two parallel statements or use some other strategy of emphasis and connection that is natural in your language. (See: [Parallelism](#))

behold (ULT)

Truly (UST)

This is a term meant to focus the attention of the listener on what the speaker is about to say. If there is not a good way to translate this term in your language, this term can be omitted from the translation, or you can use an alternate translation like "certainly." (See: [Exclamations](#))

the cry of the sons of Israel has come to me (ULT)

I have...heard the Israelites crying (UST)

Here, **the cry** is spoken of as if it were a person who is capable of moving on his own. If this might be confusing for your readers, you could express this meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "I have heard the cries of the people of Israel" (See: [Personification](#))

I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians are oppressing them (ULT)

I have...seen how badly the Egyptians treat them (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **oppression** in another way. Alternate translation: "I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the cry of](#)
- [the sons](#)
- [of Israel](#)
- [the oppression](#)
- [are oppressing](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [crying](#)
- [how badly](#)
- [treat](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)

ULT

⁹ And now, behold, [the cry of the sons of Israel](#) has come to me. And moreover, I have seen [the oppression](#) with which [the Egyptians are oppressing](#) them.

UST

⁹ Truly, I have now heard [the Israelites crying](#). I have also seen [how badly the Egyptians treat](#) them.

Exodus 3:10

And now (ULT)

So now (UST)

And now functions as a discourse marker expressing logical conclusion. "So then," (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- and I shall send you
- Pharaoh
- my people
- the sons of
- Israel
- from Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- I will send you to do this
- the king of Egypt
- my people
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- out of Egypt

ULT

¹⁰ And now go, and I shall send you to Pharaoh, and bring out my people, the sons of Israel, from Egypt."

UST

¹⁰ So now I will send you to do this: Go to the king of Egypt and lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

Exodus 3:11

Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring out the sons of Israel from Egypt (ULT)

I am not important enough to go to the king in order to bring the Israelites out of Egypt (UST)

Moses uses this question to tell God that he, Moses, is not the right person for the task. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [God](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [from Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [God](#)
- [the king](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [out of Egypt](#)

ULT

¹¹ And [Moses](#) said to [God](#), “Who am I, that I should go to [Pharaoh](#), and that I should bring out [the sons of Israel from Egypt](#)?”

UST

¹¹ But [Moses](#) said to [God](#), “I am not important enough to go to [the king](#) in order to bring [the Israelites out of Egypt](#).”

Exodus 3:12

you all will serve (ULT)

all of you will worship (UST)

If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sign](#)
- [have sent you](#)
- [the people](#)
- [from Egypt](#)
- [you all will serve](#)
- [God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [my people](#)
- [out of Egypt](#)
- [all of you will worship](#)
- [me](#)
- [will prove](#)
- [sent you to them](#)

ULT

¹² And he said, “I shall certainly be with you, and this will be [the sign](#) for you that I [have sent you](#): when you bring [the people](#) out [from Egypt](#), [you all will serve God](#) on this mountain.”

UST

¹² God said, “Even so, you can trust that I will be with you. When you bring [my people out of Egypt](#), [all of you will worship me](#) right here on this mountain. That [will prove](#) to you that I am the one who [sent you to them](#).”

Exodus 3:13

Behold, I am about to go to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you.’ And they will say to me, ‘What is his name (ULT)

If I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God whom your ancestors worshiped has sent me to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is his name (UST)

Moses presents God with a hypothetical situation here. The three events (**go, say, say**) are part of one hypothetical event. You should translate this in a way that makes it clear that this is a future, not-yet-real event. (See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#))

Behold (ULT)

If (UST)

Behold is a term meant to focus the attention of the listener on what the speaker is about to say. In this case, Moses uses it to introduce what he views as a probable future occurrence. Alternative translation: “Now”

am about to go (ULT)

go (UST)

In your language, use **go** or “come” as makes most sense for Moses’ hypothetical action of going from the mountain to where the Israelites are. (See: [Go and Come](#))

The God of your fathers has sent me to you (ULT)

The God whom your ancestors worshiped has sent me to you (UST)

This is a second-level quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation inside a quotation. However, you may also choose to translate it as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: “that the God of their fathers has sent me to them” (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

The God of your fathers (ULT)

The God whom your ancestors worshiped (UST)

Here, **fathers** figuratively means “ancestors.” Alternate translation: “The God of your ancestors” or “The God whom your ancestors worshiped” (See: [Metonymy](#))

what should I say to them (ULT)

Then what should I say to them (UST)

Moses is asking God what he should do as a result of the hypothetical situation he presented. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

ULT

¹³ And **Moses** said to **God**, “Behold, I am about to go to **the sons of Israel**, and I will say to them, ‘**The God of your fathers has sent me** to you.’ And they will say to me, ‘What is **his name**?’ what should I say to them?”

UST

¹³ **Moses** said to **God**, “If I go to **the Israelites** and say to them, ‘**The God whom your ancestors worshiped has sent me** to you,’ they will ask me, ‘What is **his name**?’ Then what should I say to them?”

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- God
- The God of
- the sons of
- Israel
- your fathers
- has sent me
- his name

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- God
- The God
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- whom your ancestors worshiped
- has sent me
- his name

Exodus 3:14

I AM WHO I AM (ULT)**I AM WHO I AM (UST)**

This is God's response to Moses' question about God's name. This can be made explicit. Alternate translation: "God said to Moses, 'Tell them that God says his name is "I AM THAT I AM."'"

I AM WHO I AM (ULT)**I AM WHO I AM (UST)**

This could mean: (1) this whole sentence is God's name or (2) God is not telling his name but something about himself. By saying this, God is teaching that he is eternal; he has always lived and always will live.

I AM...I AM...I AM (ULT)**I AM...I AM...I AM (UST)**

Languages that do not have an equivalent to the verb "am" may need to render this as "I LIVE" or "I EXIST."

And he said (ULT)**Tell...that (UST)**

This indicates that God is still speaking. It may make more sense to omit this in some languages.

I AM sent me to you (ULT)**the God whose name means 'I AM' sent you to them (UST)**

This is a second-level quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation inside a quotation. However, you may also choose to translate it as an indirect quotation, as in the UST. (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [God](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [to the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [sent me](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [God](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [sent you](#)

ULT

¹⁴ And [God](#) said to [Moses](#), "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "You shall speak this way [to the sons of Israel](#), 'I AM [sent me](#) to you.'"

UST

¹⁴ [God](#) replied to [Moses](#), "I AM WHO I AM. Tell [the Israelites](#) that the God whose name means 'I AM' [sent you](#) to them."

Exodus 3:15

And God also said to Moses (ULT) God also said to Moses (UST)

As God is still speaking, it may make more sense to omit this in some languages.

to Moses (ULT) to Moses (UST)

After this phrase, a direct quotation begins that continues until [the end of chapter 3 at verse 22](#). This section contains four levels of quotations as God tells Moses to tell the Israelite elders a specific message from God. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is my memorial from generation to generation (ULT)
Yahweh has sent me to you. He is the God Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and your other ancestors worshiped. Yahweh is my eternal name, and this is the name by which people living at any time must remember me (UST)

This is a second-level quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening second-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation within a quotation. It may be possible to translate it as an indirect quotation, but you will need to be careful to correctly change the pronoun persons. Alternative translation: “You must tell the Israelites that Yahweh, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, sent you to them. This is his name forever, and this is his memorial from generation to generation.” (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

the God of your fathers (ULT) He is the God...and your other ancestors worshiped (UST)

Here, **fathers** figuratively means “ancestors.” Alternate translation: “the God of your ancestors” or “the God whom your ancestors worshiped” (See: [Metonymy](#))

from generation to generation (ULT) people living at any time (UST)

The repetition of **generation** is indicating “to each and every generation” which figuratively means “for all people at all times.” If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. (See: [Merism](#))

ULT

¹⁵ And God also said to Moses, “You shall speak this way to the sons of Israel: ‘Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is my memorial from generation to generation.’”

UST

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “You must say this to the Israelites, ‘Yahweh has sent me to you. He is the God Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and your other ancestors worshiped. Yahweh is my eternal name, and this is the name by which people living at any time must remember me.’”

Translation Words - ULT

- God
- the God of
- the God of
- the God of
- and the God of
- Moses
- Isaac
- Jacob
- sent me
- my name
- forever
- from generation
- to generation
- the sons of
- Israel
- Yahweh
- your fathers
- Abraham

Translation Words - UST

- God
- He is the God
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Moses
- Jacob
- and your other ancestors worshiped
- eternal
- my...name
- people living at any time
- people living at any time
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- Yahweh
- has sent me
- Abraham
- Isaac

Exodus 3:16

Yahweh (ULT)**Yahweh (UST)**

This begins a second-level quotation that continues until the end of [verse 17](#). It contains a third-level quotation that begins at “I have certainly” and also continues to the end of verse 17. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening second-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation within a quotation. The closing marks for both the second and third-level quotations should not occur until the end of verse 17. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

the God of your fathers (ULT)**He is the God...and your other ancestors worshiped (UST)**

Here, **fathers** figuratively means “ancestors.” Alternate translation: “the God of your ancestors” or “the God whom your ancestors worshiped” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (ULT)**Abraham...Isaac, Jacob (UST)**

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were three of the Israelites’ ancestors. They all worshiped the same God.

I have certainly attended (ULT)**I have come down to carefully watch {and do something (UST)**

This begins a third-level quotation that continues until the end of [verse 17](#). It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening third-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation within a quotation that is within a quotation. The closing marks for both the second-level and third-level quotations should not occur until the end of verse 17. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

I have certainly attended (ULT)**I have come down to carefully watch {and do something (UST)**

The word translated **attended** often means God is coming to take action. Translate this phrase in a way that communicates God’s focused, caring observation. (See: [Idiom](#))

I have certainly attended (ULT)**I have come down to carefully watch {and do something (UST)**

Here, **attended** is repeated in Hebrew. The Hebrew practice of verb repetition for intensification cannot be directly translated into English. This expresses the intensity, certainty, or clarity of Yahweh’s having **attended to** how his people were suffering. Use a natural form of strengthening a verb from your language. (See: [Idiom](#))

ULT

16 Go and gather the elders of Israel, and say to them, ‘Yahweh, the God of your fathers, appeared to me, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to say, “I have certainly attended to you and what is being done to you in Egypt,

UST

16 Go call a meeting with all the Israelite leaders. Tell them, ‘Yahweh appeared to me. He is the God Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and your other ancestors worshiped. He said: “I have come down to carefully watch {and do something about} what the Egyptians are doing to you.

to you (ULT)**I have come down to...watch...and do something (UST)**

The word **you** refers to the people of Israel. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

what is being done (ULT)**about} what...are doing (UST)**

The focus of this passive is the mistreatment being **done to** the Israelites, not on who is doing it. In fact, **in Egypt** further dissociates the actors from this sentence. If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can express the idea in active form or in another way that is natural in your language, as in the UST. (See: [Active or Passive](#))

in Egypt (ULT)**the Egyptians (UST)**

The phrase **in Egypt** is a metonym for the Egyptian oppressors. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternative translation: “by the Egyptians” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and gather](#)
- [the elders of](#)
- [in Egypt](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the God of](#)
- [the God of](#)
- [your fathers](#)
- [Abraham](#)
- [Isaac](#)
- [and Jacob](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [call a meeting](#)
- [with all the...leaders](#)
- [and your other ancestors worshiped](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [Israelite](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [He is the God](#)
- [Abraham](#)
- [Abraham](#)
- [Isaac](#)
- [Jacob](#)

Exodus 3:17

If you are using direct quotations, at the end of this verse you should have three closing markers. In English, it looks like ''' (without spaces). (See: [Quote Markings](#))

I will bring you up from affliction in Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey (ULT)

I will rescue you from the Egyptians who treat you badly. I will take you to the land where the peoples called the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites live now. The land is excellent for raising livestock and growing crops (UST)

This is a fourth-level quotation. It should be marked in some manner that distinguishes it from the outer three levels. Alternatively, it can be translated as an indirect quotation, as in the UST. (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

I will bring...up (ULT)

I will rescue...I will take (UST)

Regardless of the geographic realities, to **bring up** does not primarily have a literal meaning. Rather, it means to bring the Israelites into a better situation. God promised to bring them up from their low status as slaves to a place where they would be the masters of a good land. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression from your language. (See: [Idiom](#))

from affliction (ULT)

from...treat you badly (UST)

See how you translated **affliction** in [3:7](#). Alternate translation: "from being afflicted" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

milk and honey (ULT)

for raising livestock and growing crops (UST)

Here, **milk** is a metonym for domestic animals and the food products obtained from them; **honey** is a metonym for the food obtained from growing plants. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. The next note explains further. (See: [Metonymy](#))

a land flowing with milk and honey (ULT)

The land...is excellent for raising livestock and growing crops (UST)

God spoke of the land being good for animals and plants as if the milk and honey from those animals and plants were flowing through the land. See how you translated this in [Exodus 3:8](#). Alternate translation: "a land that is excellent for raising livestock and growing crops" or "a land where milk and honey flow" (See: [Metaphor](#))

ULT

17 and I said, 'I will bring you up from affliction in Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey.'"

UST

17 I promise that I will rescue you from the Egyptians who treat you badly. I will take you to the land where the peoples called the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites live now. The land is excellent for raising livestock and growing crops."

flowing with (ULT) is excellent (UST)

Alternate translation: “full of” or “with an abundance of”

milk (ULT) for raising livestock (UST)

Since milk comes from cows and goats, this represents food produced by livestock. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “food from livestock” (See: [Metonymy](#))

and honey (ULT) and growing crops (UST)

Since honey is produced from flowers, this represents food from crops. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “food from crops” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- from affliction
- in Egypt
- and honey
- the land of
- a land
- the Canaanites
- and the Hittites
- and the Amorites
- and the Perizzites
- and the Hivites
- and the Jebusites

Translation Words - UST

- the Egyptians who
- from...treat you badly
- and growing crops
- the land where the peoples called...live now
- The land
- the Canaanites
- Hittites
- Amorites
- Perizzites
- Hivites
- and Jebusites

Exodus 3:18

And they will listen to your voice (ULT) The leaders will do what you say (UST)

Listen often means “hear and do/obey.” If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression from your language. Alternative translation: “And they will pay attention to your voice” (See: [Idiom](#))

to your voice...you (ULT) what you say...you (UST)

Here, **your** and **you** refers to Moses. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

to your voice (ULT) what you say (UST)

This phrase means the elders will listen to the message Moses brings from God. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. Alternative translation: “to your message” or “to my message which you tell them” (See: [Synecdoche](#))

and the elders of Israel (ULT) and the leaders (UST)

This is a possessive of social relationship. Alternative translation: “elders in charge of the Israelites” (See: [Possession](#))

Israel (ULT) and the leaders (UST)

Israel is a collective noun that refers to all the Israelites. If your language does not use singular nouns in that way, you can use a different expression. Alternative translation: “the Israelites” or “the Israelite people” (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Egypt (ULT) the king of Egypt (UST)

Here, **Egypt** refers to the Egyptian nation. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “the Egyptians” (See: [Metonymy](#))

and you all will say (ULT) and you will say (UST)

If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

ULT

¹⁸ And they will listen to your voice. And you and the elders of Israel will go to the king of Egypt, and you all will say to him, ‘Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. And now please let us go a journey of three days into the wilderness, and let us sacrifice to Yahweh, our God.’

UST

¹⁸ The leaders will do what you say. Then you and the leaders will go to the king of Egypt, and you will say to him, ‘Yahweh, the God whom we Hebrews worship, has made a special visit to us. Please allow us to travel for a few days to a place in the wilderness in order that there we may offer sacrifices to Yahweh, the God we worship.’

with us...let us go...and let us sacrifice (ULT)
to us...allow us to travel...in order that there we may offer sacrifices (UST)

These instances of **us** are exclusive; they include Moses, the elders, and all the Israelites, but exclude the king of Egypt. Your language may require you to mark these forms. (See: [Exclusive and Inclusive 'We'](#))

three (ULT)
for a few days (UST)

Alternate translation: "3" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- to your voice
- and the elders of
- into the wilderness
- and let us sacrifice
- Israel
- the king of
- Egypt
- Yahweh
- to Yahweh
- the God of
- our God
- the Hebrews
- please
- days

Translation Words - UST

- what you say
- and the leaders
- to a place in the wilderness
- in order that there we may offer sacrifices
- and the leaders
- the king of Egypt
- the king of Egypt
- Yahweh
- to Yahweh
- the God whom we Hebrews worship
- the God we worship
- the God whom we Hebrews worship
- Please
- for a few days

Exodus 3:19

and not with a strong hand (ULT) not even by force (UST)

The word **hand** is a metonym for the power of the owner of the hand. There are two further difficulties: (1) Whose hand (power) is being referred to, (2) does the negative mean “not unless” or “not even?” Possible meanings include: (1) “only if he sees that he has no power to do anything else,” where the **hand** belongs to Pharaoh (2) “only if I force him to let you go,” where the **hand** belongs to Yahweh, taking “not unless” for the negative (3) “not even if I force him to let you go,” where the **hand** belongs to Yahweh, taking “not even” for the negative (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [know](#)
- [the king of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [strong](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [know](#)
- [the king](#)
- [of Egypt](#)
- [not even by force](#)

ULT

¹⁹ And I [know](#) that [the king of Egypt](#) will not permit you to go, and not with a [strong](#) hand.

UST

¹⁹ But I [know](#) that [the king of Egypt](#) will not allow you to go; [not even by force](#).

Exodus 3:20

And I shall send out (ULT)
So I will act...powerfully...hurt (UST)

God says this will be a result of the king of Egypt's stubbornness. Alternate translation: "Therefore, I will send out" (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

And I shall send out my hand (ULT)
So I will act...powerfully...hurt (UST)

Here, **hand** refers to God's power. Alternate translation: "I will use my strength" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Egypt (ULT)
the Egyptians (UST)

Egypt refers to both the land and the people group, and then, by extension, to Pharaoh as well. (See: [Metonymy](#))

Egypt...within him (ULT)
the Egyptians...very...and I will...with very bad things that only I can do (UST)

Here, **him** refers to Egypt as a collective.

my wonders (ULT)
very...and I will...with very bad things that only I can do (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **wonders** in another way. Alternate translation: "my amazing acts" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

And after that (ULT)
Then (UST)

Here the sequential nature of these happenings is emphasized. Consider using a stronger sequential connective term than usual here. (See: [Connect — Sequential Time Relationship](#))

he will send (ULT)
he will chase...away (UST)

Here, **he** refers to the Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

you out (ULT)
you (UST)

Here, **you** refers to the Israelites. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

ULT

²⁰ And I shall send out my hand, and I shall strike **Egypt** with all **my wonders**, which I shall do within him. And after that, **he will send** you out.

UST

²⁰ So I will act **very** powerfully, **and I will** hurt **the Egyptians with very bad things that only I can do**. Then **he will chase** you **away**.

Translation Words - ULT

- Egypt
- my wonders
- he will send

Translation Words - UST

- very...and I will...with very bad things that only I can do
- the Egyptians
- he will chase...away

Exodus 3:21

favor...in the eyes of the Egyptians (ULT) to be willing to help...the Egyptians (UST)

In the eyes of the Egyptians is an idiom for the Egyptian's feelings. **Favor** means those feelings are positive. Taken together, this means that when the Egyptians see the Israelites (Hebrews) leaving Egypt, they will gladly help them (because they want them to leave so badly due to the Egyptians suffering under God's judgment). If your language has the same or a similar idiom, you can translate or use it. Otherwise, you can translate the meaning. (See: [Idiom](#))

in the eyes of the Egyptians (ULT) the Egyptians (UST)

This is a part-whole possessive. Also, if your language uses a specific form of the possessive for things one cannot lose, it would be appropriate to use that form here. (See: [Possession](#))

this people (ULT) you Hebrews (UST)

Alternate translation: "you"

when you go...you will...go (ULT) when you leave Egypt...you will...go out (UST)

If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

when you go...you will...go (ULT) when you leave Egypt...you will...go out (UST)

Alternate translation: "leave" or "go out" or "come out" (See: [Go and Come](#))

not...emptily (ULT) not...like poor slaves (UST)

The double negative, **not ... emptily** is used to mean "full." If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement. Alternate translation: "[go] with many things" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

you will not go emptily (ULT) you will not go out like poor slaves (UST)

Here Yahweh uses a figure of speech that expresses a strong positive meaning by using a negative word together with a word that is the opposite of the intended meaning. If this is confusing in your language, you can express the meaning positively. Alternate translation: "you will go with your hands full of good things" or "you will go with many valuable things" (See: [Litotes](#))

ULT

²¹ And I shall give this [people favor](#) in the eyes of [the Egyptians](#), and it will be that when you go, you will not go emptily.

UST

²¹ When this happens, I will cause [the Egyptians to be willing to help you Hebrews](#) so that, when you leave Egypt, you will not go out like poor slaves.

Translation Words - ULT

- people
- favor
- the Egyptians

Translation Words - UST

- the Egyptians
- to be willing to help
- you Hebrews

Exodus 3:22

and from one sojourning in her house (ULT) or visiting (UST)

The word, **sojourning** means living somewhere other than one's native land, usually temporarily. It is unclear both who the sojourning (visiting) women are and in whose house they are sojourning, leaving several possibilities. Most translations which make a decision about who they are identify both the temporary resident and her host home as Egyptian. This makes sense as the Israelites will be plundering the Egyptians. If it is possible to leave this ambiguous in your translation, that would be best.

And you will put them on your sons and on your daughters, and you will plunder (ULT) You will be able to have your children wear the things they give you. That is how you will take everything from (UST)

Each of these is a plural **you**. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

the Egyptians (ULT) the Egyptians (UST)

After this phrase, the direct quote of Yahweh's word which started in [verse 15](#) ends. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with a closing first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the end of a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [from her neighbor](#)
- [in her house](#)
- [silver](#)
- [gold](#)
- [your sons](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the women living...nearby](#)
- [or visiting](#)
- [for things made from silver and gold](#)
- [for things made from silver and gold](#)
- [your children wear](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)

ULT

²² And a woman will ask [from her neighbor](#) and from one sojourning [in her house](#) for items of [silver](#) and items of [gold](#) and clothing. And you will put them on [your sons](#) and on your daughters, and you will plunder [the Egyptians](#)."

UST

²² At that time, each Hebrew woman will ask [the women living or visiting nearby for things made from silver and gold](#) and for clothing. You will be able to have [your children wear](#) the things they give you. That is how you will take everything from [the Egyptians](#)."

Exodus 4

Exodus 4 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- v. 1-17: Moses hesitates to obey so Yahweh gives Moses signs to prove his commission
- v. 18-28: Moses goes back to Egypt
- v. 29-31: Moses and Aaron meet with the Israelite leaders and tell them what Yahweh said

Potential Translation Issues

Quotations

- There is a difficult transition between [4:4](#) and [4:5](#) because the quotation stops in the middle to inject a bit of narrative. When it resumes in [4:5](#), the sentence seems incomplete (even if merged directly with the quotation fragment in [4:4](#)). (See: [Ellipsis](#))* Yahweh's instructions to Moses are complex, and there are up to four levels of quotations in this chapter. Translators will need to decide if some of these need to become indirect quotations (if that is possible in their language) and take great care to use the proper quotation markings in the proper locations.

Order of events

- The order of events is not always clear. In [4:14](#) Yahweh tells Moses that Aaron is coming to meet him, but Yahweh telling Aaron to go meet Moses in the wilderness is not recorded until [4:27](#).
- The timing of the events in [4:18](#)-[4:27](#), especially verses 18-19 and 27 in relation to the rest of the events of the chapter, is unclear.

Thus says Yahweh

The first of over 400 occurrences throughout the Old Testament of a standard phrase used to introduce direct, authoritative instruction from Yahweh occurs in [4:22](#). It occurs ten times in the book of Exodus; nine of these are between chapters 4–11. It would be good for your team to have a standard way to translate this that makes it clear that the words that come next are directly from God. If your language has a standard way of introducing a new message from your leader that alerts the hearers that these are the words of the leader, that would be a good phrase to consider.

Yahweh's attempt to kill someone

The encounter recorded from [4:24](#) to [4:26](#) is one of the strangest and most difficult passages in the entire book. Difficulties include:

- To whom do the pronouns refer? Masculine pronouns are used throughout the section, but there are two possible antecedents, Moses (who is not named in the narrative) and Zipporah's son (who was presumably also Moses' son, but this is how he is referred to in this text. For why, see below on why Yahweh did this). Most commentators believe the pronouns refer to Moses.
- Circumcision is described in fairly graphic detail. Different cultures will need to approach this differently. Some may have terms for circumcision, while others may be comfortable translating mostly literally, and

others will need to use euphemisms or other strategies to translate. (See: [circumcise](#), [circumcised](#), [circumcision](#), [uncircumcised](#), [uncircumcision](#))

- The meaning of the phrase **a bridegroom of blood** (ULT) is unknown.
- Why did Yahweh attack Moses? Many commentators conclude that Moses had neglected to circumcise one of his sons because it displeased Zipporah, and Yahweh was holding Moses responsible before he returned to lead the Israelites (who should have been circumcised). When Zipporah repented by circumcising the son herself and touching the foreskin to Moses' feet, Yahweh relents. These conclusions should help inform translation but should not be made explicit in the text.

Study Concepts in this Chapter

Children of God

This chapter introduces the concept that Israel, the people group, is the chosen people of God and God's firstborn son. (See: [chosen](#), [choose](#), [chosen people](#), [Chosen One](#), [elect](#) and [people of God](#) and [firstborn](#))

Yahweh hardened Pharaoh's heart

Scholars are divided over how to understand this statement. There is debate over how Pharaoh has an active or passive role in the hardening of his own heart. Translators should simply follow the text. In Exodus 4-14 there are ten statements that Yahweh hardens Pharaoh's heart, and ten statements that Pharaoh hardens his own heart. (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Exodus 4:1

And Moses answered and said (ULT) Moses replied to God (UST)

Here, **answered and said** is a Hebrew expression which does not convey any extra information. Unless your language naturally uses a similar structure, it is better to translate one verb and omit the other. Alternate translation: "Moses answered"

But look, they will not believe me, and they will not listen to my voice; for they will say, 'Yahweh has not appeared to you (ULT) They will completely disbelieve me and ignore me because they will think, 'Yahweh did not appear to you (UST)

This is a direct quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with first-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

to my voice (ULT) me (UST)

See [3:18](#). Alternate translation: "to what I say" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Yahweh has not appeared to you (ULT) Yahweh did not appear to you (UST)

This is a second-level quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. However, you could translate it as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: "that Yahweh has not appeared to me" (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

But look (ULT) completely (UST)

This is a term meant to focus the attention of the listener on what the speaker is about to say. If there is not a good way to translate this term in your language, this term can be omitted from the translation, or you can use an alternate translation like "Listen to me."

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [they will...believe](#)
- [to my voice](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

¹ And [Moses](#) answered and said, "But look, [they will](#) not [believe](#) me, and they will not listen [to my voice](#); for they will say, 'Yahweh has not appeared to you.'"

UST

¹ [Moses](#) replied to God, "They will completely [disbelieve](#) me and ignore [me](#) because they will think, 'Yahweh did not appear to you.'"

Translation Words - UST

- Moses replied to God
- They will...disbelieve
- me
- Yahweh

Exodus 4:2

to him...And he said (ULT)

to him...Moses answered (UST)

Here, **him** and **he** refer to Moses. Alternate translation: “to Moses ... And Moses said” (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [in your hand](#)
- [A staff](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [in your hand](#)
- [A staff](#)

ULT

² And [Yahweh](#) said to him, “What is that [in your hand?](#)” And he said, “[A staff.](#)”

UST

² [Yahweh](#) said to him, “What is that [in your hand?](#)” Moses answered, “[A staff.](#)”

Exodus 4:3

from its face (ULT)

from it (UST)

Here, "face" figuratively represents the snake itself. Alternative translation: "from the snake" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [to the ground](#)
- [to the ground](#)
- [a snake](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [on the ground](#)
- [on the ground](#)
- [a snake](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

³ And he said, "Throw it [to the ground](#)." And he threw it [to the ground](#), and it became [a snake](#). And [Moses](#) fled from its face.

UST

³ Yahweh said, "Throw it down [on the ground!](#)" So Moses threw the staff [on the ground](#). It became [a snake](#) and [Moses](#) ran away from it.

Exodus 4:4

and take it by its tail (ULT)

Pick up the snake...by its tail (UST)

Alternate translation: “and pick it up by the tail” or “and grasp it by the tail”

Reach out your hand and take it by its tail (ULT)

Pick up the snake by its tail (UST)

This direct quotation is interrupted by Moses obeying Yahweh. This is probably a tightly ordered sequence of events where Yahweh paused and then continued speaking immediately after Moses obeyed. The quote resumes in [verse 5](#), and there is more discussion there about how to translate the quotation resumption. (See: [Connect — Sequential Time Relationship](#))

and it became a staff (ULT)

and it became a staff...again (UST)

Alternate translation: “and it turned into a rod” or “and it changed into a staff”

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- your hand
- his hand
- a staff

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- Pick up the snake
- So Moses picked up the snake by the tail
- a staff

ULT

⁴ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Reach out [your hand](#) and take it by its tail”— and he reached out [his hand](#) and he caught it to him, and it became [a staff](#) in his palm—

UST

⁴ Then Yahweh said to Moses, “[Pick up the snake](#) by its tail.” [So Moses picked up the snake by the tail](#), and it became [a staff](#) in his hand again.

Exodus 4:5

in order to cause them to believe that Yahweh appeared to you, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (ULT)

Yahweh said, “Do the same thing in front of the} Israelite elders in order that they may believe that I, Yahweh, the God that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and your other ancestors worshiped, truly appeared to you (UST)

This continues the direct quotation from the first part of [verse 4](#). It may be more natural to reorganize verses four and five to keep the quote together. If you rearrange like this, Moses picking up the snake/staff should come after the full quotation. However, it is better to do something similar to the UST, which restates that Yahweh is speaking and provides some implied directives from Yahweh to make a complete sentence. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

ULT

⁵ “in order to [cause them to believe](#) that Yahweh appeared to you, [the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.](#)”

UST

⁵ {Yahweh said, “Do the same thing in front of the} Israelite elders in order that they may believe that I, Yahweh, the God that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and your other ancestors worshiped, truly appeared to you.”

in order to cause them to believe that Yahweh appeared to you, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (ULT)

Yahweh said, “Do the same thing in front of the} Israelite elders in order that they may believe that I, Yahweh, the God that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and your other ancestors worshiped, truly appeared to you (UST)

This quote is not a complete sentence; the UST provides a clarification. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. (See: [Ellipsis](#))

cause them to believe...their fathers (ULT)

Yahweh said...Do the same thing in front of the} Israelite elders in order that they may believe...and your other ancestors worshiped (UST)

Here, **them** and **their** refer either to the Israelites or to the Israelite elders. God had instructed Moses to gather and speak to the elders; if you make this participant explicit, elders is a better option. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

to you (ULT)

to you (UST)

Here, **you** refers to Moses. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (ULT)
the God that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and your other ancestors worshiped (UST)

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were three of their ancestors. They all worshiped the same God.

Translation Words - ULT

- cause them to believe
- Yahweh
- Jacob
- of...the God
- the God...of
- the God of
- the God of
- their fathers
- Abraham
- Isaac, and

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh said...Do the same thing in front of the} Israelite elders in order that they may believe
- and your other ancestors worshiped
- I, Yahweh
- the God that
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob

Exodus 4:6

and behold (ULT)

had (UST)

This word, **behold**, is used to create an exclamation, showing surprise. (See: [Exclamations](#))

like snow (ULT)

look as white as snow (UST)

The word **like** (ULT) or “as” (UST) here is used to compare how Moses’ hand looked. You may not have a word for snow in your language. If so, consider an alternative that describes something very white. You may need to make the whiteness explicit. Alternate translation: “that made it look white like wool” or “that made it look white like the sand on the beach” (See: [Simile](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [your hand](#)
- [his hand](#)
- [his hand](#) (2)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [your hand](#)
- [his hand](#)
- [it](#) (2)

ULT

⁶ And [Yahweh](#) also said to him, “Put [your hand](#) in your bosom.” And he put [his hand](#) in his bosom. And he brought it out, and behold, [his hand](#) was being struck with a skin disease like snow.

UST

⁶ [Yahweh](#) gave Moses another instruction: “Put [your hand](#) on your chest inside your robe.” Moses put [his hand](#) into his robe. When he brought his hand out, [it](#) had a disease that made the skin look as white as snow.

Exodus 4:7**and behold (ULT)****amazingly (UST)**

This word is used to create an exclamation, showing surprise. (See: [Exclamations](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Return
- And he returned
- your hand
- his hand
- it was restored
- like his flesh

Translation Words - UST

- Put
- Moses put
- your hand
- his hand
- the skin on his hand looked like the rest of his skin
- again

ULT

⁷ And he said, “Return your hand into your bosom.” And he returned his hand into his bosom, and he brought it out from his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his flesh.

UST

⁷ Then Yahweh said, “Put your hand in your robe again.” Moses put his hand back inside his robe. This time when he brought it out, amazingly, the skin on his hand looked like the rest of his skin again.

Exodus 4:8

**and they do not listen to the voice of the first sign, then they will believe the voice of the following sign (ULT)
or listen to you after seeing the first miracle, they will believe you when you perform the second miracle (UST)**

Here each **sign** is spoken of as if it had a **voice** with which it could speak. If this might be confusing for your readers, you could express this meaning in a non-figurative way that makes explicit that the signs are meant to be proof that God sent Moses. Alternative translation: “and are not convinced that God has appeared to you by seeing the first sign, then they will be convinced by seeing the second sign.” (See: [Personification](#))

ULT

⁸ “And it will be, if **they do not believe** you, and they do not listen to the **voice of the first sign**, then they will believe the **voice of the following sign**.

UST

⁸ {Yahweh said, “You can do that in front of the Israelite people, too.} And if **they do not believe** you or listen **to you after seeing** the first **miracle**, they will believe **you when you perform** the second **miracle**.

**they do...believe...they do...listen...then they will believe (ULT)
they do...believe...listen...they will believe (UST)**

Here, **they** refers either to the Israelites or to the Israelite elders. God had instructed Moses to gather and speak to the elders; if you make this participant explicit, elders is the better option, but be sure to do the same as you did in [verse 5](#). (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

**they do not believe...then they will believe (ULT)
they do not believe...they will believe (UST)**

Alternate translation: “they do not acknowledge ... then they will acknowledge” or “they do not accept ... then they will accept”

Translation Words - ULT

- [they do...believe](#)
- [to...voice of](#)
- [voice of \(2\)](#)
- [the...sign](#)
- [the...sign](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [they do...believe](#)
- [to you](#)
- [you \(2\)](#)
- [after seeing...miracle](#)
- [when you perform...miracle](#)

Exodus 4:9

they do...believe...they do...listen (ULT)

they do...believe you...listen (UST)

Here, **they** refers either to the Israelites or to the Israelite elders. God had instructed Moses to gather and speak to the elders; if you make this participant explicit, elders is the better option, but be sure to do the same as you did in [verse 5](#). (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

to your voice (ULT)

to what you say (UST)

See [3:18](#). Alternate translation: “to what you say” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [they do...believe](#)
- [signs](#)
- [to your voice](#)
- [from the water of](#)
- [the water](#)
- [the river](#)
- [the river \(2\)](#)
- [blood](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [they do...believe you](#)
- [to what you say](#)
- [miracles](#)
- [some water from](#)
- [the water](#)
- [the Nile River](#)
- [that you pour \(2\)](#)
- [blood](#)

ULT

⁹ And it will be, if [they do](#) not [believe](#) even these two [signs](#), and they do not listen [to your voice](#), then you shall take [from the water of the river](#) and you shall pour it on the dry land. And it will happen, [the water](#) which you take from [the river](#), that it will become [blood](#) on the dry land.”

UST

⁹ But if [they do](#) not [believe you](#) or listen [to what you say](#) even after you show them these two [miracles](#), get [some water from the Nile River](#), and pour it on the dry ground. When you do that, [the water that you pour](#) on the dry ground will become [blood](#).”

Exodus 4:10

Oh (ULT)**But (UST)**

This word is used by a speaker to beg a superior to allow him to speak. Alternate translation: "Please"

I am not a man of words; not since yesterday, nor since three days ago (ULT)**I am not good at speaking to people. I have never been (UST)**

Alternate translation: "I have never been an excellent speaker, not now, not before"

a man of words (ULT)**good at speaking to people (UST)**

This expression means "a man who uses words well," in other words, an eloquent man who can speak well and convincingly.

not since yesterday, nor since three days ago (ULT)**I have never been (UST)**

These phrases simply mean "in the past." If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. (See: [Merism](#))

your servant (ULT)**me (UST)**

Moses refers to himself as God's servant to lower his status before God (and perhaps by doing so to make his argument of inability stronger). If this is confusing in your language, you can make who he means plain. Alternate translation: "me, your servant" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

heavy of mouth and heavy of tongue (ULT)**speak...slowly...and never know what to say (UST)**

These phrases mean basically the same thing. Moses uses them to emphasize that he is not a good speaker. If your language does not use repetition in this way, you can combine these phrases. Alternate translation: "not good at public speaking"(See: [Doublet](#))

tongue (ULT)**and never know what to say (UST)**

Here, **tongue** refers to Moses' ability to speak. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "speech" (See: [Metonymy](#))

ULT

¹⁰ And [Moses](#) said to [Yahweh](#), "Oh my [Lord](#), I am not a man of words; not since yesterday, nor since three days ago, nor since you spoke to [your servant](#). For I am heavy of mouth and heavy of tongue."

UST

¹⁰ Then [Moses](#) said to [Yahweh](#), "But [Lord](#), I am not good at speaking to people. I have never been and you talking to [me](#) has not made me better. I speak slowly and never know what to say."

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Yahweh
- my Lord
- your servant
- tongue

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- Yahweh
- Lord
- me
- and never know what to say

Exodus 4:11

Who put a mouth in mankind (ULT) that...make people's mouths (UST)

Yahweh uses this question to emphasize that he is the Creator who makes it possible for people to speak. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "Is it not I, Yahweh, who created the human mouth and the ability to speak" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

who makes a mute or a deaf or a seeing or a blind (ULT) make people...unable to speak, or unable to hear, or able to see or not to see (UST)

Yahweh uses this question to emphasize that he is the one who decides if people can speak and hear, and if they can see. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "make people able to speak or hear or to see or to be blind" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Is it not I, Yahweh (ULT) Do not forget...I, Yahweh...I (UST)

Yahweh uses this question to emphasize that he alone makes these decisions. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "I, Yahweh, am the one who does this!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [in mankind](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [people's](#)

ULT

¹¹ And [Yahweh](#) said to him, "Who put a mouth [in mankind](#), or who makes a mute or a deaf or a seeing or a blind? Is it not I, [Yahweh](#)?"

UST

¹¹ Then [Yahweh](#) said to him, "Do not forget that I, [Yahweh](#), make [people's](#) mouths! I make people unable to speak, or unable to hear, or able to see or not to see!"

Exodus 4:12

And I shall be with your mouth (ULT) and I will help you speak (UST)

Here, **mouth** refers to Moses' ability to speak. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "I will give you the ability to speak" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and I shall teach you](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [and I will tell you](#)

ULT

¹² And now go! And I shall be with your mouth, [and I shall teach you](#) what you will speak."

UST

¹² So go now, and I will help you speak, [and I will tell you](#) what to say."

Exodus 4:13**Oh (ULT)****Oh (UST)**

This word is used by a speaker to beg a superior to allow him to speak. See what you did in [verse 10](#). Alternate translation: "Please"

please send by a hand you send (ULT)
I ask you, please choose anyone else to send (UST)

In translating this phrase, it is important to make clear that Moses is asking Yahweh to send someone else. Here he is not accepting Yahweh's commission.

by a hand (ULT)**choose anyone else (UST)**

This phrase means "by a person." The figure is of a person taking Yahweh's message in his hand to the Israelites and Pharaoh. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. (See: [Synecdoche](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [my Lord](#)
- [send](#)
- [you send](#)
- [by a hand](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Lord](#)
- [to send](#)
- [choose anyone else](#)
- [choose anyone else](#)

ULT

¹³ And he said, "Oh [my Lord](#), please [send by a hand you send](#)."

UST

¹³ But Moses replied, "Oh [Lord](#), I ask you, please [choose anyone else to send](#)!"

Exodus 4:14

And the nose of Yahweh burned (ULT) Then Yahweh became angry (UST)

This means that Yahweh is angry. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "Yahweh became angry" (See: [Idiom](#))

and he said (ULT) and said to him (UST)

Here, **he** refers to Yahweh. Alternate translation: "and Yahweh said" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Is not Aaron, the Levite, your brother (ULT) What about your brother Aaron, the descendant of Levi (UST)

Yahweh uses this rhetorical question to suggest an alternative to Moses. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternative translation: "I know you have a brother, Aaron the Levite." (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

your brother (ULT) your brother (UST)

Aaron is older than Moses. If your language uses a different term for the sibling relationship based on gender and age order, choose the appropriate one. (See: [Kinship](#))

can speak well (ULT) is a good speaker (UST)

In Hebrew, the word **speak** is repeated. This means he speaks well. English cannot convey this by doubling, so the meaning of the repetition was translated in the ULT in this case. If your language can say something like "speaking speaks" to mean "speaks well," consider it; otherwise, translate the meaning similarly to the ULT or UST. (See: [Idiom](#))

behold (ULT) right now (UST)

Here, **behold** is used to draw attention to surprising information that follows. If your language has a term that functions in that way ("Listen!" or "Look!" or "Pay Attention!"), use it here.

is coming (ULT) is on his way (UST)

Yahweh says Aaron is coming from Egypt to Midian to find Moses. He is probably on foot. Depending on the language, the required form of go or come may vary. (See: [Go and Come](#))

ULT

¹⁴ And the nose of Yahweh burned at Moses, and he said, "Is not Aaron, the Levite, your brother? I know that he can speak well. And even more, behold, he is coming to meet you, and he will see you and he will be glad in his heart."

UST

¹⁴ Then Yahweh became angry with Moses and said to him, "What about your brother Aaron, the descendant of Levi? I know he is a good speaker. He is on his way here right now. When he sees you, he will be very happy."

and he will be glad (ULT)
he will be very happy (UST)

Aaron will be glad because he sees Moses. Consider a conjunction or other form that expresses result, as in the UST or alternative translation: “and because he sees you, he will have joy” (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

in his heart (ULT)
he will be very happy (UST)

Here, **heart** refers to inner thoughts and emotions. If the heart is not a body part your culture uses to refer to a person’s thoughts and emotions, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the...Yahweh
- at Moses
- Aaron
- the Levite
- your brother
- I know
- and he will be glad
- in his heart

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- with Moses
- your brother
- Aaron
- the descendant of Levi
- I know
- he will be very happy
- he will be very happy

Exodus 4:15

the words (ULT) what to say (UST)

Words here are spoken of as if they were something that can be physically placed in a person's mouth. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "the message that he is to repeat" (See: [Metaphor](#))

And I am with your mouth and with his mouth (ULT) I will help you both to speak (UST)

The word **mouth** here represents Moses' and Aaron's choice of words. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "And I will be with you as you speak and with him as he speaks" (See: [Metonymy](#))

you both...you should do (ULT) you both...to do (UST)

These refer to Moses and Aaron. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a dual form if you have one or, if not, use a plural. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and I will teach](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [and will tell](#)

ULT

¹⁵ And you shall speak to him, and you shall put the words in his mouth. And I am with your mouth and with his mouth, [and I will teach](#) you both what you should do.

UST

¹⁵ You will tell him what to say. I will help you both to speak [and will tell](#) you both what to do.

Exodus 4:16

like a mouth (ULT) spokesman (UST)

This phrase compares Aaron to a mouth because he will be the one to actually vocalize to the Israelites and Pharaoh what Moses tells him to say. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent comparison or express this meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “the one to say what you tell him to say” (See: [Simile](#))

will be like God to him (ULT) he will think of...as if you were me (UST)

The word **like** here means Moses would represent the same authority to Aaron as God did to Moses. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent comparison or express this meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “you will speak to Aaron with the same authority with which I speak to you” (See: [Simile](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the people](#)
- [like God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Israelite people](#)
- [as if you were me](#)

ULT

¹⁶ And he will speak to [the people](#) for you. So it will be, he will be like a mouth for you, and you will be [like God](#) to him.

UST

¹⁶ He will speak for you to [the Israelite people](#). He will be your spokesman, and he will think of you [as if you were me](#).

Exodus 4:17

And...this...staff (ULT) your staff (UST)

Yahweh assumes that Moses will know that by **this staff**, he means the one that Moses said he had in his hand in [verse 2](#) and with which God told him to do a miracle in [verses 3-4](#). If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [in your hand](#)
- [And...staff](#)
- [the signs](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [your staff](#)
- [with you](#)
- [miracles](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And you shall take [in your hand](#) this [staff](#), with which you will do [the signs](#).”

UST

¹⁷ Be sure to take [your staff with you](#), because you will perform [miracles](#) with it.”

Exodus 4:18

Jethro (ULT)

Jethro (UST)

Jethro is reintroduced as a participant in the narrative here. Use the natural form in your language for reintroducing a character. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

And...went (ULT)

went (UST)

Because the setting has shifted back to Jethro's home, some languages may need to use "come" here. (See: [Go and Come](#))

his father-in-law (ULT)

his father-in-law (UST)

This refers to the father of Moses' wife. If your language uses a different term for the husband's or wife's father use the one for wife's father. (See: [Kinship](#))

and he said (ULT)

and said (UST)

Here, **he** refers to Moses. Alternate translation: "and Moses said" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

to him (ULT)

to him (UST)

Here, **him** refers to Jethro. Alternate translation: "to Jethro" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

my brothers (ULT)

my relatives (UST)

Here the term **brothers** refers more broadly to all of Moses' people group, those he is related to. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "my relatives" (See: [Metonymy](#))

and see whether they are still alive (ULT)

to see if they are well (UST)

Later in the Bible we are told that Moses was in Midian for 40 years. Moses' request may have been literal or an idiom that meant he wanted to know how they were doing. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. (See: [Idiom](#))

ULT

18 And **Moses** went and returned to **Jethro** his father-in-law, and he said to him, "Please let me go, and let me return to my brothers who are in Egypt and see whether they are still alive." And **Jethro** said to **Moses**, "Go in peace."

UST

18 **Moses** went back to his father-in-law, **Jethro**, and said to him, "Please let me go back to my relatives in Egypt to see if they are well." **Jethro** said to **Moses**, "You may go. Be safe."

Go in peace (ULT)

You may go. Be safe (UST)

This is a phrase of assent and blessing. It may be necessary for some languages to explicitly add, "Yes," to the beginning of Jethro's response. (See: [Blessings](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- to Moses
- and returned
- and let me return
- Jethro
- Jethro
- my brothers
- are in Egypt
- alive
- in peace

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- to Moses
- back
- back
- Jethro
- Jethro
- my relatives
- in Egypt
- if they are well
- Be safe

Exodus 4:19

And Yahweh said to Moses (ULT)

Yahweh told Moses {again} (UST)

The timing and situation for Yahweh speaking to Moses here is not specified. Some conjecture that it was part of the narrative of the encounter with Yahweh from the previous verses but placed after his request to Jethro for an unknown reason. Another speculation is that Moses delayed returning to Egypt (either by his own choice, Yahweh's instructions, or someone else delaying him) and Yahweh came and told him again (the UST explicitly offers this optional translation). (See: [Connect — Sequential Time Relationship](#))

who were seeking your life (ULT)

trying to kill you (UST)

This means they were seeking to end his life, that is, to kill him.

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- in Midian
- Return
- to Egypt
- who were seeking
- your life
- are dead

Translation Words - UST

- While he was still} in Midian
- Yahweh
- Moses
- Go back...now
- to Egypt
- trying
- to kill you
- is now dead

ULT

¹⁹ And Yahweh said to Moses in Midian, "Go! Return to Egypt! For all the men who were seeking your life are dead."

UST

¹⁹ {While he was still} in Midian, Yahweh told Moses {again}, "Go back to Egypt now, for everyone trying to kill you is now dead."

Exodus 4:20

and his sons (ULT) and sons (UST)

Moses' second son is not introduced until 18:4 but had already been born before they left Midian. It is not necessary to make this explicit here, if it would confuse your readers you could add a footnote. (See: [When to Keep Information Implicit](#))

and he returned toward the land of Egypt (ULT) and started going toward Egypt (UST)

It is clear from [verse 24](#) and [25](#) that Moses' family went with him. If this is confusing in your language, you may need to change from **he** to "they" **returned**. (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

and he returned toward the land of Egypt (ULT) and started going toward Egypt (UST)

After the incident on the road in [verses 24-26](#). Moses' family is not mentioned again until [18:2](#), which says that Moses sent them back, so it may be better to make a translation similar to the UST, which only commits to the family starting on the way to Egypt. This option has the further benefit of allowing for the several events that happen before Moses gets to Egypt. The ULT's **toward** is another way of giving space in the translation for the next several events. (See: [Connect — Sequential Time Relationship](#))

the staff of...God (ULT) the staff...as} God {had told him to do (UST)

The phrase **the staff of God** refers to the staff that God told Moses to take with him in [verse 17](#). If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

the staff of...God (ULT) the staff...as} God {had told him to do (UST)

The book describes this staff as **the staff of God** because God appointed it as his instrument so that Moses could do miraculous works through it. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could say that explicitly. Make sure your translation does not lead people to think the staff was a magic wand or shaman's staff that had its own power or power from Moses or that the staff gave Moses the ability to command God. In every instance where miracles happened, first God told Moses to do something with the staff, then Moses obeyed, and then God caused a miracle. Alternate translation: "the staff that God had told him to bring because God intended to work powerfully through it when Moses stretched it out." (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [and his sons](#)
- [a donkey](#)
- [and he returned](#)

ULT

²⁰ And [Moses](#) took his wife [and his sons](#) and caused them to ride on [a donkey](#), [and he returned toward the land of Egypt](#). And [Moses](#) took [the staff of God in his hand](#).

UST

²⁰ So [Moses](#) put his wife [and sons](#) on a [donkey](#) and started going toward [Egypt](#). He took [the staff with him](#) {as} [God](#) {had told him to do}.

- toward the land of
- Egypt
- the staff of
- God
- in his hand

Translation Words - UST

- So...put...on a donkey
- Moses
- He
- with him
- as} God {had told him to do
- and sons
- and started going
- toward Egypt
- toward Egypt
- the staff

Exodus 4:21

While you are going (ULT) **When you get (UST)**

This begins a direct quotation that continues to the end of 4:23. It contains up to fourth-level quotations. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

see (ULT) **be sure (UST)**

Most translations and interpretations of the verb **see** take it to mean something like “see that you do.”

all the miracles that I put in your hand (ULT) **all the miracles that I have given you power to do (UST)**

Here the miracles are spoken of as if they were items Moses could carry. In part, this may be because the three signs already given to Moses involved the use of his hand. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternative translation: “all the wonders I have authorized you to perform” (See: [Metaphor](#))

before the face of Pharaoh (ULT) **in front of the king (UST)**

This time, while **before the face of** still has the standard figurative meaning of “in the presence of,” it is a much more literal use here. Moses is to actually do the miracles in front of Pharaoh so he can see them. Alternative translation: “so Pharaoh can see them” (See: [Metonymy](#))

But as for me, I shall strengthen (ULT) **But I will make him reject you (UST)**

Referring to himself in the opening of this sentence serves to emphasize a contrast between what might normally be expected and what will actually happen. Translate this in a way that clearly contrasts the performance of miracles before Pharaoh (which might be expected to lead to him releasing the Israelites) with what Yahweh says Pharaoh will do. (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

But as for me, I shall strengthen his heart (ULT) **But I will make him reject you (UST)**

This means that God will make him stubborn. His stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his heart would be made stronger. If the heart is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. Alternate translation: “But as for me, I will cause Pharaoh to be stubborn” (See: [Metaphor](#))

ULT

²¹ And Yahweh said to Moses, “While you are going to return to Egypt, see all the miracles that I put in your hand, and do them before the face of Pharaoh. But as for me, I shall strengthen his heart, and he will not let the people go.

UST

²¹ Yahweh spoke to Moses again, “When you get to Egypt, be sure to do all the miracles that I have given you power to do in front of the king. But I will make him reject you so that he will not let the Israelites leave Egypt.

and he will not let the people go (ULT) so that he will not let the Israelites leave Egypt (UST)

Make it clear in your translation that this is a result of God hardening Pharaoh's heart. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- to return
- to Egypt
- the miracles
- in your hand
- Pharaoh
- I shall strengthen
- his heart
- the people

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- When you get
- to Egypt
- the miracles
- I have given you power to do
- the king
- will make him reject you
- will make him reject you
- the Israelites

Exodus 4:22

Thus says Yahweh (ULT)

This is what Yahweh says (UST)

This is the first of hundreds of occurrences throughout the Old Testament of a standard phrase, **Thus says Yahweh**, used to introduce direct, authoritative instruction from Yahweh. It would be good for your team to have a standard way to translate this that makes it clear that the words that come next are directly from God. If your language has a standard way of introducing a new message from your rulers that alerts the hearers that these are the words of the rulers, that would be a good phrase to consider.

ULT

²² And say to **Pharaoh**, 'Thus says Yahweh: "Israel is my son, my firstborn,

UST

²² Then say to **him**, 'This is what Yahweh says: "Israel is like my firstborn son,

Thus says Yahweh (ULT)

This is what Yahweh says (UST)

This begins a second-level quotation that continues until the end of [4:23](#). It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening second-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation within a quotation. However, you may want to translate this as an indirect quotation in order to reduce the levels of quotations in this passage. Alternative translation: "that Yahweh says" (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

Israel is my son, my firstborn (ULT)

Israel is like my firstborn son (UST)

This is the beginning of a third-level quotation that continues until the end of [4:23](#). It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening third-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation within a quotation within a quotation. (If you chose to translate, "Thus says Yahweh," as an indirect quote, this will be a second-level quotation.) (See: [Quote Markings](#))

my son (ULT)

is like my...son (UST)

Yahweh expresses his affection for the Israelites by calling them his **son**. Some languages may need to change the metaphor here into a simile. See the UST. (See: [Metaphor](#))

Israel is (ULT)

Israel (UST)

The word **Israel** here represents all the people of Israel as a group. It is important to keep the singular reference to Israel as son rather than change it to something like 'the Israelites are my children,' because God is making a particular contrast here between his son and Pharaoh's son. Some languages may not be able to use "Israel" as a collective noun and may need to choose a translation like "the nation of Israel" or "the Israelite nation." (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Israel is (ULT)**Israel (UST)**

The Israelite nation is often referred to simply by the name of the patriarch. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "The Israelites are" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- Yahweh
- Israel is
- my son
- my firstborn

Translation Words - UST

- him
- Yahweh
- Israel
- is like my...son
- firstborn

Exodus 4:23

Let my son go that he may serve me (ULT)
Let my son go, so that he may worship me (UST)

This is a fourth-level quotation. It should be marked in some manner that distinguishes it from the outer levels. (If you chose to translate "Thus says Yahweh" as an indirect quote, this will be a third-level quotation.) (See: [Quote Markings](#))

and I said to you, 'Let my son go that he may serve me.' But you have refused (ULT)
and when I told you, 'Let my son go, so that he may worship me,' you refused (UST)

The fourth-level quotation here may be a good one to translate as an indirect quotation in order to reduce the levels of quotations in this passage. Alternative translation: "and I told you to let my son go that he may serve me. But you have refused" (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

my son (ULT)
my son (UST)

Yahweh continues to metaphorically speak of Israel as **my son**. See how you translated it in the previous verse. Alternative translation: "the Israelite nation, which is like a son to me" (See: [Metaphor](#))

that he may serve me...to let him go (ULT)
so that he may worship me...you refused (UST)

The pronouns **he** and **him** agree with "son." What you use may depend on how you translated son in the previous verse. (See: [Pronouns](#))

Behold (ULT)
Therefore (UST)

This is used to draw attention to surprising information that follows. Alternative translation: "Know this"

your son (ULT)
your...son (UST)

Here, **your son** refers to the actual son of Pharaoh.

your son...your firstborn (ULT)
your...firstborn...son (UST)

After this phrase, the three levels of direct quotations end, bringing a complete close to all quotations that started in verses 21 and 22. If you are using direct quotations, at the end of this verse you should have three closing markers: third level, second level and first level. In English, it looks like "" "" (without spaces). (See: [Quote Markings](#))

ULT

²³ and I said to you, 'Let **my son** go **that he may serve me**.' But you have refused to let him go. Behold, I **shall kill your son, your firstborn**.'""

UST

²³ and when I told you, 'Let **my son** go, **so that he may worship me**,' you refused. Therefore, I **will kill your firstborn son**!'""

Translation Words - ULT

- my son
- your son
- that he may serve me
- shall kill
- your firstborn

Translation Words - UST

- my son
- your...son
- so that he may worship me
- will kill
- firstborn

Exodus 4:24

And it happened (ULT)

One night (UST)

This introduces a new event. Mark the transition in a natural way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

that he encountered...to kill him (ULT)

confronted {Moses...kill him (UST)

Here, it is not clear who **him** refers to. Most commentators believe it refers to Moses, but it could refer to the son, though that is less likely. If it is necessary to choose for your translation, use Moses. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

and he sought (ULT)

in order to (UST)

Here, **he** refers to Yahweh. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [and he sought](#)
- [to kill him](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [in order to](#)
- [kill him](#)

ULT

²⁴ And it happened on the road, in the lodging-place, that he encountered [Yahweh](#), and he sought to kill him.

UST

²⁴ One night, as they were camping on the way to Egypt, [Yahweh](#) confronted {Moses} [in order to kill him](#).

Exodus 4:25

Zipporah (ULT) Moses' wife,} Zipporah (UST)

Zipporah is the name of Moses' wife. See how you translated it in 2:21. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Zipporah (ULT) Moses' wife,} Zipporah (UST)

Zipporah is introduced here as a new character. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new character. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

a flint (ULT) a sharp stone knife (UST)

This was a flake or a sharp piece of a hard gray rock that was used as a knife.. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

the foreskin of (ULT) the foreskin (UST)

The **foreskin** is the retractable fold of skin which covers and protects the end of the penis. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

to his feet (ULT) to {Moses'} feet (UST)

It is possible that the word **feet** may have been a more respectful way to refer to the genital area of the body. However, that possibility is not high enough that you should translate it either literally as genitals or with another euphemism meaning genitals in your language. If you have a word that means primarily feet or legs, but could in some cases also euphemistically mean genitals, you may consider it. (See: [Euphemism](#))

Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me (ULT) You are really my husband by blood (UST)

The meaning of this metaphor is unclear. It was probably a known saying in that culture. Alternate translation: "You are related to me by this blood" or "You are my husband because of blood" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and she cut off](#)
- [her son](#)
- [a bridegroom of](#)
- [blood](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [and cut off](#)

ULT

²⁵ And Zipporah took a flint, [and she cut off](#) the foreskin of [her son](#), and she touched it to his feet, and she said, "Surely you are [a bridegroom of blood](#) to me."

UST

²⁵ Then {Moses' wife,} Zipporah, took a sharp stone knife [and cut off](#) the foreskin [of their firstborn son](#). Then she touched the foreskin to {Moses'} feet and said, "You are really my [husband by blood](#)."

- of their firstborn son
- are...husband by blood
- are...husband by blood

Exodus 4:26

And he relented (ULT)

So Yahweh did not harm anyone (UST)

God **relented** as a result of Zipporah's action. Consider a conjunction or other form that expresses result, as in the UST. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

And he relented (ULT)

So Yahweh did not harm anyone (UST)

Here, **he** refers to Yahweh. Alternate translation: "Yahweh relented" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

from him (ULT)

So Yahweh did not harm anyone (UST)

As in 4:24, **him** could refer to either Moses or the son, but most commentators think it is still Moses. The UST uses "anyone" to preserve ambiguity. Alternative translation: "from Moses" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

bridegroom of blood (ULT)

a husband by blood (UST)

This is a unique quotation because Zipporah probably does not speak again; rather, the quotation refers back to her statement in 4:25. Use a form from your language for quoting a portion of what someone previously said. If it would be more natural in your language, you could express this as an indirect quotation. (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

bridegroom of blood" because of the circumcision (ULT)

a husband by blood," because she had cut off their son's foreskin (UST)

It is not clear if the quotation includes **because of the circumcision** or if that is a comment explaining the quotation. Translations are divided in where they end the quotation, but most exclude **because of the circumcision**, and it is best to follow that unless a locally respected translation includes it. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- bridegroom of
- blood
- because of the circumcision

Translation Words - UST

- a husband by blood
- a husband by blood
- because she had cut off their son's foreskin

ULT

²⁶ And he relented from him. That was when she said, "bridegroom of blood" because of the circumcision.

UST

²⁶ She said, "a husband by blood," because she had cut off their son's foreskin. So Yahweh did not harm anyone.

Exodus 4:27

And...said (ULT)

Meanwhile...said (UST)

You may want to add a word that marks the beginning of a new part of the story, as the UST does. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Aaron (ULT)

Aaron (UST)

Aaron is introduced as a new participant. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new character. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

at the mountain of God (ULT)

at the mountain where God met Moses (UST)

See how you translated this in 3:1. (See: [Possession](#))

and he kissed (ULT)

and greeted...by kissing (UST)

This was a traditional way of greeting which showed love. You can make this explicit, as in the UST. (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Aaron
- into the wilderness
- Moses
- the...God
- and he kissed

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Aaron
- into the desert
- Moses
- where God met Moses
- and greeted...by kissing

ULT

²⁷ And Yahweh said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." And he went, and he met him at the mountain of God, and he kissed him.

UST

²⁷ Meanwhile, Yahweh said to Aaron, "Go into the desert to meet Moses." So Aaron went and met Moses at the mountain where God met Moses and greeted him by kissing him.

Exodus 4:28

**he had sent him...he commanded him (ULT)
everything...had sent him...to Egypt to say to
the king and the Israelites...Yahweh had
instructed him {to do (UST)**

These are a bit awkward to translate in English, so the UST adds more information. Other languages may not have the same difficulty.

**he had sent him...he commanded him (ULT)
everything...had sent him...to Egypt to say to
the king and the Israelites...Yahweh had
instructed him {to do (UST)**

Here, the pronoun **he** refers to Yahweh, and **him** refers to Moses. Alternative translation: "Yahweh sent Moses ... Yahweh commanded Moses" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [he had sent him](#)
- [the signs](#)
- [he commanded him](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [everything...had sent him...to Egypt to say to the king and the Israelites](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the miracles](#)
- [Yahweh had instructed him {to do](#)

ULT

²⁸ And [Moses](#) told [Aaron](#) all the words of [Yahweh](#) that [he had sent him](#) and all the signs that [he commanded him](#).

UST

²⁸ [Moses](#) told [Aaron](#) everything that [Yahweh had sent him {to Egypt to say to the king and the Israelites}](#) and all the miracles that [Yahweh had instructed him {to do}](#).

Exodus 4:29

And...went (ULT)

When...arrived in Egypt (UST)

This begins a new event which you may need to mark in your translation with a transitional word like the UST's "When." (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- and Aaron
- and they gathered
- the elders of
- the sons of
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- and Aaron
- they called a meeting
- with all the Israelite leaders
- with all the Israelite leaders
- with all the Israelite leaders

ULT

²⁹ And Moses and Aaron went, and they gathered all of the elders of the sons of Israel.

UST

²⁹ When Moses and Aaron arrived in Egypt, they called a meeting with all the Israelite leaders.

Exodus 4:30

before the eyes of the people (ULT) as the leaders watched (UST)

Here, **before the eyes** means he did the signs so they could see them. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternative translation: "in their sight" (See: [Metonymy](#))

the people (ULT) the leaders (UST)

Context suggests that **people** refers to the leaders gathered in [4:29](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [Aaron](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the signs](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Aaron](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the miracles](#)

ULT

³⁰ And [Aaron](#) spoke all of the words that [Yahweh](#) had spoken to [Moses](#). And he did [the signs](#) before the eyes of the people,

UST

³⁰ [Aaron](#) told them everything that [Yahweh](#) had told [Moses](#) and performed [the miracles](#) as the leaders watched.

Exodus 4:31**the people (ULT)****The leaders (UST)**

Context suggests that **people** refers to the leaders gathered in 4:29.

had attended...the sons of Israel (ULT)
had come down to help them...the Israelites (UST)

Alternate translation: "saw the Israelites" or "was concerned about the Israelites"

and they bowed and prostrated themselves (ULT)
the leaders bowed down to worship him (UST)

This action was an expression of thankful worship. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternative translations: "they bowed their heads in awe" or "they bowed down low in reverence." (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- and...believed
- Yahweh
- the sons of
- Israel
- their affliction
- and they bowed
- and prostrated themselves

Translation Words - UST

- believed Aaron and Moses
- Yahweh
- how miserable...were
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the leaders bowed down
- to worship him

ULT

³¹ and the people believed. And they heard that Yahweh had attended to the sons of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, and they bowed and prostrated themselves.

UST

³¹ The leaders believed Aaron and Moses. Because they heard that Yahweh had seen how miserable the Israelites were and had come down to help them, the leaders bowed down to worship him.

Exodus 5

Exodus 5 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- v. 1-5: Moses gives Pharaoh Yahweh's message
- v. 6-21: Pharaoh makes the Israelites work harder
- v. 22-23: Moses asks Yahweh why things went badly

Exodus 5:1

And afterward, Moses and Aaron went in and said to Pharaoh (ULT)
Then Moses and Aaron went to the king. They said to him...to you (UST)

The time phrase, **and afterward**, marks a transition in the narrative. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. Alternative translation: "After that" (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

And afterward, Moses and Aaron went in and said to Pharaoh (ULT)
Then Moses and Aaron went to the king. They said to him...to you (UST)

It is unclear how long Moses and Aaron waited before they went to see Pharaoh. (See: [Connect — Sequential Time Relationship](#))

went in (ULT)
went (UST)

In this instance, depending on how they have to set scenes, some languages may need to use "came in." (See: [Go and Come](#))

Pharaoh (ULT)
the king...him...you (UST)

Pharaoh is reintroduced as a participant in the narrative for the first time since chapter two. Use the natural form in your language for reintroducing a character. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel: 'Let my people go, and they shall celebrate me in the wilderness (ULT)
The God {named} Yahweh, whom we Israelites worship, says this...Let my people go to the desert so that they may have a feast to honor me (UST)

This is a direct quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with first-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation. There is a second-level quotation fully contained within this portion which is addressed elsewhere. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Thus says Yahweh (ULT)
named} Yahweh...says this (UST)

This quotation formula is used to introduce commands from Yahweh. See 4:intro for more information.

ULT

¹ And afterward, **Moses and Aaron** went in and said to **Pharaoh**, "Thus says **Yahweh, the God of Israel**: 'Let **my people** go, and they shall celebrate me in the wilderness.'"

UST

¹ Then **Moses and Aaron** went to the **king**. They said to **him**, "The God {named} **Yahweh, whom we Israelites worship**, says this to **you**: 'Let **my people** go to the desert so that they may have a feast to honor me!'"

and they shall celebrate (ULT) so that they may have a feast (UST)

This is a celebration to worship Yahweh. Alternative translation: "so they can worship me with eating and drinking"

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- and Aaron
- Pharaoh
- Yahweh
- the God of
- Israel
- my people
- and they shall celebrate
- in the wilderness

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- and Aaron
- my people
- to the desert
- so that they may have a feast
- the king...him...you
- The God...whom we Israelites worship
- The God...whom we Israelites worship
- named} Yahweh

Exodus 5:2

And...said (ULT)**But...said (UST)**

The result here is exactly as God has said; therefore, a contrastive transition word is reasonable but not required, given the immediate human context. (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

Who is Yahweh, that I should listen to his voice to let Israel go (ULT)**Who is Yahweh...so why should I obey what he demands (UST)**

This is not a rhetorical question, though Pharaoh may have spoken with contempt. Pharaoh would have considered himself a god. The Egyptians had several gods, and most people groups were assumed to have their own gods. Therefore, Pharaoh had truly not heard of Yahweh (who has just revealed his name to Moses).

Israel...Israel (ULT)**what he demands...the Israelites (UST)**

Here the nation is spoken of as an individual. If your language does not use singular nouns in that way, you can use a different expression. Alternative translation: "the nation of Israel" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

to his voice (ULT)**what he demands (UST)**

Here, **his voice** represent the words God spoke. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "to what he says" (See: [Metonymy](#))

and moreover (ULT)**certainly (UST)**

This functions to strengthen Pharaoh's statement about his decision. Alternative translation: "and most definitely"

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- to his voice
- Israel
- Israel
- I do...know

Translation Words - UST

- the king
- Yahweh
- him

ULT

² And Pharaoh said, "Who is Yahweh, that I should listen to his voice to let Israel go? I do not know Yahweh, and moreover, I shall not let Israel go."

UST

² But the king said, "Who is Yahweh? I have never heard of him, so why should I obey what he demands? I will certainly not let the Israelites go!"

- I have...heard of
- what he demands
- what he demands
- the Israelites

Exodus 5:3

And they said (ULT) Moses and Aaron replied (UST)

It may not make sense in all languages for multiple people to speak. Since Aaron was appointed as Moses' spokesman, consider the alternative translation: "Aaron replied" (See: [First](#), [Second](#) or [Third Person](#))

The God of the Hebrews (ULT) The God we Hebrews worship (UST)

This term, **The God of the Hebrews**, is also used for Yahweh, the Israelites' God.

with us...let us go...and let us sacrifice...he come upon us (ULT) to us...allow us to travel...in order that...we may offer sacrifices...he will cause us to die from (UST)

Here, **us** (or "we" in UST) refers to the Hebrew people (the Israelites). It excludes Pharaoh and his people. Your language may require you to mark these forms. (See: [Exclusive and Inclusive 'We'](#))

with the sword (ULT) from attacks by our enemies (UST)

Here, **sword** represents war or an attack by enemies. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "cause our enemies to attack us" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [The God of](#)
- [our God](#)
- [the Hebrews](#)
- [days](#)
- [into the wilderness](#)
- [and let us sacrifice](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [with the plague](#)
- [with the sword](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The God we Hebrews worship](#)
- [our God](#)
- [The God we Hebrews worship](#)
- [from attacks by our enemies](#)
- [for a few days](#)

ULT

³ And they said, "[The God of the Hebrews](#) has met with us. Please, let us go a journey of three [days into the wilderness](#), and let us sacrifice to [Yahweh our God](#), lest he come upon us with the plague or with the sword."

UST

³ Moses and Aaron replied, "[The God we Hebrews worship](#) has made a special visit to us. Please allow us to travel for a few days to a place in the wilderness in order that there we may offer sacrifices to [Yahweh, our God](#). If we do not do that, he will cause us to die from diseases or from attacks by our enemies."

- to a place in the wilderness...there
- in order that...we may offer sacrifices
- to Yahweh
- diseases

Exodus 5:4

Moses and Aaron, why are you causing the people to leave off from their tasks (ULT)

Moses and Aaron, it is pointless for you to distract the Israelites from their work (UST)

Pharaoh uses this rhetorical question to express his anger toward Moses and Aaron for taking the Israelites away from their work. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "Stop distracting the people from doing their work!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Go to your burdens (ULT)

Get back to work, all of you (UST)

This **your** could refer to Moses and Aaron, or it could mean "all you Israelite people." The second meaning is more likely. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a dual or plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the king of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [the people](#)
- [to your burdens](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [But the king of Egypt](#)
- [But the king of Egypt](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [to work](#)

ULT

⁴ And [the king of Egypt](#) said to them, "[Moses and Aaron](#), why are you causing [the people](#) to leave off from their tasks? Go to your burdens."

UST

⁴ [But the king of Egypt](#) said to them, "[Moses and Aaron](#), it is pointless for you to distract [the Israelites](#) from their work. Get back to work, all of you!"

Exodus 5:5

And Pharaoh said (ULT) Then the king said (UST)

It is unusual for the same speaker to be reintroduced like this. Some translations omit the repetition, but there is another option. This statement may be more connected to the next couple of verses, so it might be appropriate to make a minor break before this verse. (See: [Connecting Words and Phrases](#))

And Pharaoh said, “Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you have caused them to rest from their burdens (ULT)

Then the king said, “Look, there are too many Israelites in Egypt for you to encourage them to just stop working (UST)

This statement by Pharaoh may have been him commenting to himself, or he may have only thought this statement silently; either way, it led to his next actions. If this would be confusing in your language, consider stating it in a way that clarifies that his statement or thoughts here impacted his next actions. (See: [Aside](#))

Behold (ULT) Look (UST)

Behold is a term meant to focus the attention of the listener on what the speaker is about to say.

and you have caused...to rest (ULT) for you to encourage...to just stop (UST)

Here, **you** means Moses and Aaron. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a dual form if you have one, or if not, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- the people of
- the land
- and you have caused...to rest
- from their burdens

Translation Words - UST

- the king
- Israelites
- in Egypt
- for you to encourage...to just stop
- working

ULT

⁵ And Pharaoh said, “Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you have caused them to rest from their burdens.”

UST

⁵ Then the king said, “Look, there are too many Israelites in Egypt for you to encourage them to just stop working.”

Exodus 5:6

And...Pharaoh ordered...the taskmasters among the people and officers, saying (ULT) the king commanded...commanded...the Egyptian slave drivers and the Israelite bosses who directed the slaves (UST)

Pharaoh may have sent a messenger or messengers to the taskmasters and officers or spoken to one or a few representatives of them at his court rather than speaking to them directly. Alternative translation: "And ... Pharaoh gave an order to the taskmasters among the people and officers. He said,"

ULT

⁶ And on that [day](#), [Pharaoh ordered](#) the taskmasters [among the people](#) and officers, saying,

UST

⁶ That same [day the king commanded the Egyptian slave drivers](#) and the Israelite bosses who directed the slaves,

**the taskmasters (ULT)
the Egyptian slave drivers (UST)**

Taskmasters were Egyptians whose job it was to force the Israelites to do hard work. These are probably the same as the "overseers" of labor gangs from [Exodus 1:11](#), but here the term is harsher. Alternative translation: "oppressors"

**and officers (ULT)
the Israelite bosses who directed the slaves (UST)**

Officers were probably Israelite slaves who were in charge of the other Israelites but who answered to the Egyptian taskmasters.

**saying (ULT)
commanded (UST)**

Here, **saying** is a way of introducing a direct quotation in Hebrew; most translations can omit it without harm.

Translation Words - ULT

- [on...day](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [And...ordered](#)
- [among the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [day](#)
- [the king](#)
- [commanded](#)
- [the Egyptian slave drivers](#)

Exodus 5:7

Do not continue (ULT)

Stop (UST)

This command was given to multiple people; if your language distinguishes between singular and plural forms when giving commands, make sure this is a plural form. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

as yesterday and the day before yesterday (ULT)

From now on (UST)

This is a Hebrew idiom meaning “in the past.” If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternative translation: “as you used to do” or “as was done previously” (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [to the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Israelites](#)

ULT

⁷ “Do not continue to give straw [to the people](#) to make bricks as yesterday and the day before yesterday. They shall go and gather straw for themselves.

UST

⁷ “Stop giving [the Israelites](#) straw for making bricks. From now on, they will have to go get it themselves.

Exodus 5:8

you shall put (ULT) still force...to make (UST)

If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

the bricks (ULT) bricks (UST)

Bricks are blocks made of clay or mud with straw in them. They are hardened in the sun or in another manner before they are used for building. See how you translated in [1:14](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

yesterday and the day before yesterday (ULT) before (UST)

This is a Hebrew idiom meaning “in the past.” See how you translated this in [5:7](#) Alternative translation: “before” or “previously” (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [are crying](#)
- [let us sacrifice](#)
- [to our God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [are asking me](#)
- [to worship](#)
- [their god](#)

ULT

⁸ But you shall put on them the quota of the bricks which they were making yesterday and the day before yesterday; do not diminish from it. For they are idle. Therefore they [are crying](#), saying, 'Let us go, [let us sacrifice to our God.](#)'

UST

⁸ However, still force them to make the same number of bricks that they did before. Do not lower the number at all. They do not want to work. That is why they [are asking me](#) to let them go {into the wilderness} [to worship their god.](#)

Exodus 5:9

**and shall not gaze at words of lies (ULT)
so that they will be too busy to listen...to lies
{from their leaders (UST)**

Here words are spoken of as if they could be looked upon. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternative translation: "and not listen to words that are lies" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the slavery](#)
- [Let...be heavy](#)
- [lies](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Make the men work harder](#)
- [Make the men work harder](#)
- [to lies...from their leaders](#)

ULT

⁹ Let [the slavery be heavy](#) on the men so they shall do it and shall not gaze at words of [lies](#)."

UST

⁹ [Make the men work harder](#) so that they will be too busy to listen [to lies {from their leaders}!](#)"

Exodus 5:10

And...went out (ULT)**So...went (UST)**

This begins a new scene, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

the taskmasters of (ULT)**the slave drivers (UST)**

Taskmasters were Egyptians whose job was to force the Israelites to do hard work. See how you translated this in [5:6](#).

Thus says Pharaoh (ULT)**The king has said that (UST)**

This is the same quotation introduction as is used when Yahweh gives a direct command. See [4:intro](#) for more information.

and said to the people, saying, “Thus says Pharaoh (ULT)**to where the Israelites were and said to them, “The king has said that (UST)**

It might be helpful in some languages to translate **thus says Pharaoh** as an indirect quote so that his conveyed command is not a quote within a quote. Alternate translation: “and told the people that Pharaoh says” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

I...not (ULT)**he will no longer (UST)**

This is the beginning of a second-level quotation that continues until the end of verse 11. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening second-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the start of a quotation within a quotation. However, you could also translate this as an indirect quote. See UST. (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

I am not giving straw to you (ULT)**he will no longer give you any straw (UST)**

The structure of this phrase and the one that opens [the next verse](#) create a strong contrast between what **I** (Pharaoh) and **you** (you all, the Israelites) will do. Translate this in a way that emphasizes, if possible, the contrast between **I** and **you**. Alternative translation: “It is not I who will give you straw.” (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

I am not giving straw to you (ULT)**he will no longer give you any straw (UST)**

Pharaoh uses **I** to refer to his ownership and commands. Pharaoh does not physically give the Israelites straw. Rather, he had commanded his servants to take straw that belonged to Pharaoh and give it to the Israelites. Now he told his servants to stop providing straw. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent

ULT

¹⁰ And the taskmasters of [the people](#) and officers went out and said to [the people](#), saying, “Thus says [Pharaoh](#): ‘I am not giving straw to you.’

UST

¹⁰ So [the slave drivers](#) and Israelite bosses went to where [the Israelites were](#) and said [to them](#), “[The king](#) has said that he will no longer give you any straw.

expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "My servants will no longer give you my straw" (See: [Metonymy](#))

to you (ULT)

you (UST)

You is plural and refers to the Israelite people. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the people](#)
- [the people](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the slave drivers](#)
- [the Israelites were...to them](#)
- [The king](#)

Exodus 5:11

You go and get your own straw from wherever you might find it (ULT)

So you must go yourselves and get straw where you can find it (UST)

The structure of this phrase serves as the opposing side of the contrast Pharaoh sets up in the last phrase. By explicitly using a pronoun with a command, he is emphasizing who will go get straw. If possible, translate this in a way that emphasizes the contrast between **I** and **you**. See the previous verse. Alternative translation: "Rather, it is you yourselves who must go get straw from wherever you might find it" (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

You (ULT)
yourselves (UST)

Here, **you** is plural and refers to the Israelite people. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

You...your own (ULT)
yourselves...yourselves (UST)

The repetition of **you** (as **your**) emphasizes that the Egyptians will no longer help the slaves. See the UST. (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

for there will be no reducing of things from your slavery (ULT)
But you must keep working to make the same number of bricks (UST)

If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement. Alternate translation: "for you must continue to make the same number of bricks as before" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- of...from your slavery

Translation Words - UST

- you must keep working to make

ULT

¹¹ You go and get your own straw from wherever you might find it, for there will be no reducing of things **from your slavery.**"

UST

¹¹ So you must go yourselves and get straw where you can find it. But **you must keep working to make** the same number of bricks."

Exodus 5:12

throughout all the land of Egypt (ULT) all over Egypt (UST)

This is a generalization used to show the extra effort Israel made to meet Pharaoh's demands. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression from your language that means many places. Alternate translation: "to many places throughout Egypt" (See: [Hyperbole](#))

stubble (ULT) leftover grain stalks (UST)

Stubble is the part of a plant that is left over after harvest. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [So...dispersed](#)
- [the people](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [So...scattered](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [all over](#)
- [Egypt](#)

ULT

¹² [So the people dispersed](#) throughout all [the land of Egypt](#) to gather stubble for straw.

UST

¹² [So the Israelites scattered all over Egypt](#) to collect leftover grain stalks to use for straw.

Exodus 5:13

Now the taskmasters (ULT) As for the slave bosses, they (UST)

Taskmasters were Egyptians whose job it was to force the Israelites to do hard work. See how you translated this in [Exodus 5:6](#).

Now the taskmasters (ULT) As for the slave bosses, they (UST)

The change of subject is emphasized here. If your language has a way of specifically focusing on the actor in a narrative, use it here. See the UST for how that is done in English. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

the task of day by day (ULT) the work we assign to you...each day (UST)

Day by day means "daily." Alternative translation: "the daily task"

Translation Words - ULT

- [your work](#)
- [day](#)
- [by day](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the work we assign to you](#)
- [day](#)
- [each](#)

ULT

¹³ Now the taskmasters were hastening them, saying, "Finish [your work](#), the task of [day by day](#), as when there was straw."

UST

¹³ As for the slave bosses, they kept harassing them by saying, "Do all [the work we assign to you each day](#). Make the same number of bricks as you did before, when we gave you straw!"

Exodus 5:14

**the taskmasters of (ULT)
the king's slave drivers (UST)**

Taskmasters are Egyptians whose job it was to force the Israelites to do hard work. See how you translated this in [Exodus 5:6](#).

And the officers of the sons of Israel...were beaten (ULT)

When they were not able to make enough bricks...beat the bosses they had put in charge of the Israelites (UST)

The text does not specify who beat the officers. It was probably either the taskmasters or someone the taskmasters ordered to beat the officers. If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can express the idea in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "And the taskmasters beat the officers of the sons of Israel" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Why have you not finished your required brick making like yesterday and the day before yesterday, neither yesterday nor today (ULT)

This is because your work teams have not been able to make the same number of bricks in the last couple of days as they did before (UST)

The taskmasters used this question to show they were angry with the lack of bricks. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "You are not producing enough bricks, either yesterday or today, as you did in the past!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

have you...finished your required (ULT)

your work teams have...been able...the same number of...they did (UST)

Here, **you** and **your** are plural. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

have you not finished your required (ULT)

your work teams have not been able...the same number of...they did (UST)

Here, **you** and **your** do not simply refer to the officers; they refer to the groups of Israelite workers the officers are in charge of. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. Alternate translation: "have your teams not finished their required" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

ULT

¹⁴ And the officers of the sons of Israel, whom the taskmasters of Pharaoh had put over them, were beaten, saying, "Why have you not finished your required brick making like yesterday and the day before yesterday, neither yesterday nor today?"

UST

¹⁴ {When they were not able to make enough bricks,} the king's slave drivers beat the bosses they had put in charge of the Israelites. They told them, "This is because your work teams have not been able to make the same number of bricks in the last couple of days as they did before."

like yesterday and the day before yesterday (ULT) as...before (UST)

This is a Hebrew idiom meaning “in the past.” Here it specifically refers to the time before the Egyptians stopped giving the Israelites straw. See how you translated this in 5:7 Alternative translation: “before” or “previously” (See: [Idiom](#))

This time expression refers to more recent days, ones since the Egyptians stopped providing the straw to the Israelites.

Translation Words - ULT

- of the sons
- of Israel
- Pharaoh
- today

Translation Words - UST

- the king's slave drivers
- the bosses they had put in charge of the Israelites
- the bosses they had put in charge of the Israelites
- in the last couple of days

Exodus 5:15

And...came in (ULT)

Then...went in {to the palace (UST)

This begins a new scene, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. The officers have gone to where Pharaoh is. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

And...came in (ULT)

Then...went in {to the palace (UST)

You will need to decide if go or come is the better translation in your language. (See: [Go and Come](#))

to your servants (ULT)

us (UST)

Here, the Israelite officers use the term **your servants** to refer to themselves in the third person as a way of showing humility. It is also possible that they mean to include all the Israelites. Either option is valid if your language must state who is meant by "your servants." Alternate translation: "to us" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [and cried](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [to your servants](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Israelite](#)
- [the Israelite](#)
- [and complained](#)
- [the king](#)
- [us](#)

ULT

¹⁵ And the officers of [the sons of Israel](#) came in [and cried](#) to [Pharaoh](#), saying, "Why are you doing this [to your servants](#)?"

UST

¹⁵ Then [the Israelite](#) bosses went in {to the palace} [and complained](#) to [the king](#), "Why are you treating [us](#) this way?"

Exodus 5:16

No straw is being given to your servants (ULT)
Your slave drivers are not giving us any straw for making bricks...Make...bricks (UST)

The text does not specify who is not giving them straw. From the context, the taskmasters and, by implication, Pharaoh himself are the ones not doing this. If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can express the idea in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternative translation: "You are not giving your servants any straw." (See: [Active or Passive](#))

to your servants...your servants (ULT)
Make...bricks...us (UST)

Here, the Israelite officers use the term **your servants** to refer to themselves in the third person as a way of showing humility. It is also possible that they mean to include all the Israelites. Either option is valid if your language must state who is meant by "your servants." Alternate translation: "to us" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

they are saying (ULT)
but they keep telling (UST)

Here, **they** refers to the Egyptian taskmasters. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

And behold (ULT)
even (UST)

And behold is used to draw attention to surprising information that follows.

your servants are beaten (ULT)
They are...beating us (UST)

The text does not specify who beat the officers. It was probably either the taskmasters or someone the taskmasters ordered to beat the officers. If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can express the idea in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. (See: [Active or Passive](#))

but it is the sin of your people (ULT)
But {our reduced brick making is their} fault and your fault (UST)

The Israelites are indirectly accusing Pharaoh of doing wrong. To translate this, consider polite or indirect ways of making accusations in your culture. (See: [Euphemism](#))

but it is the sin of (ULT)
But {our reduced brick making is...fault...fault (UST)

Alternate translation: "but it is the wrongdoing of"

ULT

¹⁶ No straw is being given to your servants. And they are saying to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are beaten, but it is the sin of your people."

UST

¹⁶ Your slave drivers are not giving us any straw for making bricks, but they keep telling us, 'Make the same number of bricks!' They are even beating us. But {our reduced brick making is their} fault and your fault."

Translation Words - ULT

- to your servants
- your servants
- but it is the sin of

Translation Words - UST

- Make...bricks
- us
- But {our reduced brick making is...fault...fault

Exodus 5:17

You are...you (ULT)

You are lazy and do not want to work...you (UST)

These uses of **you** are plural. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

You are lazy! Lazy (ULT)

You are lazy and do not want to work (UST)

Pharaoh repeats himself for emphasis. In your translation, make sure the idea of laziness or idleness is repeated or strengthened in a way that is natural. Alternative translation: “You are extremely lazy” (See: [Exclamations](#))

Let us go sacrifice to Yahweh (ULT)

Allow us to go {to the desert} to worship Yahweh (UST)

Here the king is quoting another person’s speech. This is a second-level quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [sacrifice](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [to worship](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And he said, “You are lazy! Lazy! That is why you are saying, ‘Let us go [sacrifice to Yahweh.](#)’

UST

¹⁷ But the king said, “You are lazy and do not want to work! That is why you keep saying, ‘Allow us to go {to the desert} [to worship Yahweh.](#)’

Exodus 5:18

And straw will not be given to you (ULT) We are not going to give you any straw (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can express the idea in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. The subject could be “I” (as in Pharaoh) or “we” (as in the Egyptians or Pharaoh and his taskmasters) or “my people.” See UST. (See: [Active or Passive](#))

to you...you will give (ULT) you...but you must keep making (UST)

Here, **you** means all the Israelites or the officers as representatives of all the Israelites. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Work](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Get back to work](#)

ULT

¹⁸ And now go! [Work](#)! And straw will not be given to you, but you will give the set quantity of bricks.”

UST

¹⁸ [Get back to work](#) right now! We are not going to give you any straw, but you must keep making the same number of bricks!”

Exodus 5:19

And the officers of the sons of Israel saw themselves in distress regarding the saying, “You shall not reduce the day-by-day task from your bricks (ULT) When {the king} said, “You must not make fewer bricks each day,” the Israelite bosses understood how bad their life was (UST)

If it would be more natural in your language, you could reverse the order of these phrases, since the second phrase gives the reason for the result that the first phrase describes. See the UST. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

themselves (ULT)
their life was (UST)

Here the officers are both the subject and object, because they are thinking about their own situation. Use a way that is natural in your language to indicate this. (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

And...saw...themselves in distress regarding the saying (ULT)
understood...When {the king} said...how bad their life was (UST)

Alternate translation: “knew that they were in trouble, because the king said” or “perceived themselves to be in danger, because the king said”

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons](#)
- [of Israel](#)
- [in distress](#)
- [day](#)
- [by-day](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [day](#)
- [each](#)
- [the Israelite](#)
- [the Israelite](#)
- [how bad](#)

ULT

¹⁹ And the officers of [the sons of Israel](#) saw themselves [in distress](#) regarding the saying, “You shall not reduce the [day-by-day](#) task from your bricks.”

UST

¹⁹ When {the king} said, “You must not make fewer bricks [each day](#),” [the Israelite](#) bosses understood [how bad](#) their life was.

Exodus 5:20

And they met (ULT)

they met (UST)

A new scene begins here, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

And they met...to meet them when they came out (ULT)

they met...As they left...for them (UST)

Here, **they** and **them** refer to the officers. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [their meeting with the king](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

²⁰ And they met [Moses and Aaron](#), who were waiting to meet them when they came out from [Pharaoh](#).

UST

²⁰ As they left [their meeting with the king](#), they met [Aaron](#) and [Moses](#), who were waiting for them.

Exodus 5:21

May Yahweh look on you and judge (ULT)
We hope Yahweh notices...you...We hope he punishes...two (UST)

The Israelite officers used this form to curse Moses and Aaron.

on you and judge (ULT)
you...We hope he punishes...two (UST)

You refers to Moses and Aaron. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a dual or plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

you have caused our scent to stink in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of his servants (ULT)

have made the king and his officials hate us...you (UST)

The Egyptians responded to the Israelites the same way they would respond to a foul odor. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “you have caused Pharaoh and his servants to hate us” (See: [Metaphor](#))

a sword into their hand (ULT)
made them think they should kill us (UST)

Here, **a sword into their hand** is a metonym for “a reason in their mind.” The Israelites are afraid that the Egyptians will feel that they are doing the right thing if they kill the Israelites, because Moses and Aaron are making demands to the king and because the Egyptians view the Israelites as lazy and dangerous. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “them a reason to think they would be right” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [and judge](#)
- [the...Pharaoh](#)
- [his servants](#)
- [a sword](#)
- [into their hand](#)
- [to kill us](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [the king](#)
- [and his officials](#)
- [We hope he punishes](#)

ULT

²¹ And they said to them, “May [Yahweh](#) look on you [and judge](#); for you have caused our scent to stink in the eyes of [Pharaoh](#) and in the eyes of [his servants](#), to give [a sword into their hand to kill us](#).”

UST

²¹ They said to Aaron and Moses, “We hope [Yahweh](#) notices that you have made [the king and his officials](#) hate us. [We hope he punishes](#) you two! You have [made them think they should kill us!](#)”

- made them think they should kill us
- made them think they should kill us
- made them think they should kill us

Exodus 5:22

Was this why you sent me (ULT) You sent me to help them, not hurt them (UST)

This question shows how disappointed Moses was that the Egyptians were treating the Israelites even more harshly now. He is expressing that he thinks God has caused the opposite of what he promised to happen. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "I thought you sent me to rescue them." (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- And...went back
- Yahweh
- My Lord
- have you afflicted
- people
- you sent me

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- left them and prayed...again
- Yahweh
- My Lord
- you caused all these evil things to happen
- to your people
- You sent me to help them, not hurt them

ULT

²² And Moses went back to Yahweh and said, "My Lord, why have you afflicted this people? Was this why you sent me?"

UST

²² Moses left them and prayed to Yahweh again, "My Lord, why have you caused all these evil things to happen to your people? You sent me to help them, not hurt them."

Exodus 5:23

in your name (ULT)

what you told me to say (UST)

Here, **in your name** indicates that Moses delivers Yahweh's message. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "for you" or "your message for him" (See: [Metonymy](#))

And you have certainly not rescued (ULT)

and you have not done anything to help (UST)

In Hebrew, **rescued** is repeated for emphasis. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Pharaoh](#)
- [in your name](#)
- [he has afflicted](#)
- [people](#)
- [your people](#)
- [And...certainly](#)
- [you have...rescued](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the king](#)
- [what you told me to say](#)
- [he has treated...very badly](#)
- [your people](#)
- [them](#)
- [and you have...done anything to help](#)
- [and you have...done anything to help](#)

ULT

²³ And since I came to [Pharaoh](#) to speak [in your name](#), [he has afflicted](#) this [people](#). And [you have certainly](#) not [rescued your people](#)."

UST

²³ Ever since I went to [the king](#) and told him [what you told me to say](#), [he has treated your people very badly](#), and you [have not done anything to help them!](#)"

Exodus 6

Exodus 6 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- v. 1-13, 28-30: Yahweh repeats his commissioning of Moses after the bad events recorded in chapter 5
- v. 14-27: Genealogy of Moses and Aaron

Possible Translation Difficulties in this Chapter

Repetition of events:

Most of the content of this chapter is very similar to the events and dialogue in chapters 3-4. For consistency, translators should consult the decisions they made there while keeping in mind that this narrative is not exactly the same. Also, verses 10-12 and verses 28-30 are very similar to each other. These events are probably a recommissioning of Moses. After his first encounter with Pharaoh went very poorly and the Israelites seem to reject God, Yahweh reminds Moses of his promises and power.

Referring to God

A name for God (**Yahweh**) and a title for God (**El Shaddai**) are mentioned in this chapter (6:2\~6:3). The precise meaning of El Shaddai is not known, but most scholars think it means something like “almighty.” Translators who have worked on Genesis may find confusing the statement that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did not know Yahweh as the name of God.

Other possible translation difficulties:

With little explanation, a large portion of the chapter is devoted to the genealogy of Moses and Aaron. Some of the people in the genealogy lived much longer than is normal for humans today. If translators are not familiar with the lengths of people’s lives in the early days of the world (as recorded in Genesis, especially chapter 5), this may cause confusion.

Study Concepts in this Chapter

Promised Land

According to the covenant Yahweh made with Abraham, Egypt is not the home of the Hebrew people. Their home is the Promised Land in Canaan. The people are to return home to their land. (See: [covenant](#) and [Promised Land](#))

God and his people

In verse 7, note the mention of a very important biblical theme of God being “your God” and the special relationship that his people have with him.

Exodus 6:1

Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: for by a strong hand he will let them go; and by a strong hand he will drive them out of his land (ULT)

Now you will see what I will do to the king when I make him let my people go. I will powerfully force him to chase them from his land (UST)

This is a direct quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with first-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

ULT

¹ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: for by a strong hand he will let them go; and by a strong hand he will drive them out of his land.”

UST

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Now you will see what I will do to the king when I make him let my people go. I will powerfully force him to chase them from his land!”

Now (ULT)

Now (UST)

This refers to future events starting very soon. Alternative translation: “Starting soon” or “Very soon” (See: [Connect — Sequential Time Relationship](#))

by a strong hand...and by a strong hand (ULT)

I make him...I will powerfully force him (UST)

Here, **hand** is a metonym for power. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “by a strong power ... and by a strong power” (See: [Metonymy](#))

by a strong hand...and by a strong hand (ULT)

I make him...I will powerfully force him (UST)

It is not clear in the text whose **hand** is referred to here. The options include: (1) Both refer to God’s hand (forcing Pharaoh’s actions) (2) Both refer to Pharaoh’s hand (forcing the Israelites out) (3) They don’t refer to the same person’s hand; the first refers to God’s and the second to Pharaoh’s. The UST has followed (1), which is the most common interpretation. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: (1) “by my strong hand ... and by my strong hand” (2) “by his strong hand ... and by his strong hand” (3) “by my strong hand ... and by his strong hand” (See: [Metonymy](#))

for by a strong hand he will let them go; and by a strong hand he will drive them out of his land (ULT)

when I make him let my people go. I will powerfully force him to chase them from his land (UST)

These two phrases mean similar things. God says the same thing twice, in similar ways, for emphasis. If saying the same thing twice might be confusing for your readers, you can combine the phrases into one. Alternate translation: “I will force him to let my people leave the land” However, there is a slight difference in meaning, and

you could also choose to bring that out in your translation. The second phrase intensifies the first by portraying Pharaoh as not merely letting the Israelites go, but as forcing them to leave the land. Alternate translation: "I will force him to let them go, in fact, I will force him to force them to leave his land" (See: [Parallelism](#))

of his land (ULT) **from his land (UST)**

Alternate translation: "from Egypt"

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- of his land
- to Pharaoh
- by a...hand
- and by a...hand
- strong
- strong
- he will drive them out

Translation Words - UST

- Then Yahweh
- Moses
- to the king
- I make him
- I will powerfully force him
- I make him
- I will powerfully force him
- to chase them
- from his land

Exodus 6:2

And God spoke to Moses, and said to him (ULT)

God spoke to Moses again (UST)

There is a transition here. Before this verse, Yahweh was answering Moses' question more directly. At the beginning of this verse, Yahweh is reintroduced as "God" because he begins to make a clarifying statement about himself and his relationship with the Israelites and their ancestors as well as his plans for the Israelites. Much of this section repeats what Yahweh has already told Moses. You may want to consider a section break before this verse. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

ULT

² And God spoke to Moses, and said to him, "I am Yahweh

UST

² God spoke to Moses again, "I am Yahweh.

Translation Words - ULT

- God
- Moses
- I am Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- God
- to Moses
- I am Yahweh

Exodus 6:3

as El Shaddai (ULT) as God Almighty (UST)

El Shaddai is a title for God that many scholars think means “almighty.” You will need to decide if you will transliterate the term into your language or translate the meaning. Either approach has broad support. Alternative translation: “as the strongest God of all” (See: [Copy or Borrow Words](#))

but by my name Yahweh I was not known to them (ULT) but they did not fully comprehend {the meaning of} my name Yahweh (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can express the idea in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “but they did not know me by my name Yahweh” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

but by my name Yahweh I was not known to them (ULT) but they did not fully comprehend {the meaning of} my name Yahweh (UST)

This statement is very difficult to understand as God’s name, Yahweh, is used throughout Genesis, including by Abraham and others. There are many theories about what it means; the view followed by the UST is that now God is revealing to the Israelites a fuller meaning of his divine name than what Abraham and others knew. Alternate translation: “but my name Yahweh was not understood by them”

Translation Words - ULT

- [Abraham](#)
- [Isaac](#)
- [Jacob](#)
- [as El](#)
- [Shaddai](#)
- [but by my name](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [I was...known](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Abraham](#)
- [Isaac](#)
- [Jacob](#)
- [as God](#)
- [Almighty](#)
- [but...the meaning of} my name](#)
- [they did...fully comprehend](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

³ and I appeared to [Abraham](#), to [Isaac](#), and to [Jacob as El Shaddai](#); [but by my name Yahweh I was not known](#) to them.

UST

³ I showed myself to [Abraham](#), [Isaac](#), and [Jacob as God Almighty](#), [but they did not fully comprehend {the meaning of} my name Yahweh](#).

Exodus 6:4

to give to them the land of Canaan (ULT)
to give them, as their own, the land where the
descendants of Canaan live (UST)

This is the content of the covenant promise from God to his people. Some languages may need to make this part a direct quotation. To do so, begin a new sentence. Alternate translation: "I said, 'I will give you the land of Canaan'" (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

the land of...their sojourning, in which they
sojourned (ULT)
That was the land...in which they lived as
foreigners (UST)

These two phrases mean similar things. If saying the same thing twice might be confusing for your readers, you can combine the phrases into one. Alternate translation: "the land they lived in as temporary residents" or "the land that was not their home but where they lived as foreigners" (See: [Parallelism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [my covenant](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [Canaan](#)
- [their sojourning](#)
- [they sojourned](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [I promised](#)
- [the land where the descendants of Canaan live](#)
- [the land where the descendants of Canaan live](#)
- [That was the land](#)
- [as foreigners](#)
- [they lived](#)

ULT

⁴ And moreover, I established [my covenant](#) with them, to give to them [the land of Canaan, the land of their sojourning](#), in which [they sojourned](#).

UST

⁴ I also agreed to bless them. I [promised](#) to give them, as their own, [the land where the descendants of Canaan live](#). [That was the land](#) in which [they lived as foreigners](#).

Exodus 6:5

the groaning of (ULT) complaining (UST)

Here, **groaning** means making sad sounds because of pain and suffering.

and I have remembered my covenant (ULT) I always remember what I promised (UST)

I have remembered my covenant means God is going to take action. Alternative translation: "I will keep my promise"

Translation Words - ULT

- the groaning of
- the sons of
- Israel
- the Egyptians
- are enslaving
- my covenant

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- complaining
- the Egyptians
- have made them slaves
- what I promised

ULT

⁵ And moreover, I have heard **the groaning of the sons of Israel**, whom **the Egyptians are enslaving**, and I have remembered **my covenant**.

UST

⁵ Furthermore, I have heard **the Israelites complaining** because **the Egyptians have made them slaves**. I always remember **what I promised**.

Exodus 6:6

Therefore (ULT)**Therefore (UST)**

God is now telling Moses to deliver a message to the Israelites of what God is going to do because of everything that he said in verses 2-5. The reason-result relationship is strongly marked here, so translations should make sure to use a connector that marks verse 6-8 as a result of verses 2-5. Alternate translation: “Because of this” (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

Therefore, say to the sons of Israel (ULT)**Therefore tell the Israelite people that I said this (UST)**

This is a command from Yahweh to Moses. Alternate translation: “So Yahweh told Moses to say to the Israelites”

you...you...you (ULT)**your...you...you (UST)**

Here every occurrence of **you** refers to the Israelites. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

from under the burdens of the Egyptians (ULT)**the Egyptian’s heavy loads off...back (UST)**

This refers to all the hard work the Egyptians made the Israelites do. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. Alternate translation: “from the hard work the Egyptians force you to do” (See: [Synecdoche](#))

with an outstretched arm (ULT)**very powerfully (UST)**

Here, **arm** is a figurative way of referring to Yahweh’s power, influence, and capacity for action. **Outstretched** means that he is using that power. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “by my great strength” (See: [Metaphor](#))

and with...judgments (ULT)**by punishing them (UST)**

Here, the term **judgments** refers to the plagues that God is about to send to harm Egypt and the Egyptians. Each plague is a response to Pharaoh’s stubbornness. Alternate translation: “and by [greatly] harming the Egyptians”

Translation Words - ULT

- to the sons of
- Israel

ULT

⁶ Therefore, say to the sons of Israel, ‘I am Yahweh. And I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rescue you from their slavery. And I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.’

UST

⁶ Therefore tell the Israelite people that I said this: ‘I am Yahweh. I will take the Egyptian’s heavy loads off your back. I will deliver you from being their slaves. I will very powerfully save you by punishing them very harshly.’

- I am Yahweh
- the burdens of
- the Egyptians
- and I will rescue
- from their slavery
- And I will redeem
- and with...judgments

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelite people
- the Israelite people
- I am Yahweh
- the Egyptian's
- heavy loads
- I will deliver
- from being their slaves
- I will...save
- by punishing them

Exodus 6:7

**you...to you...And you will know...your God...
you (ULT)**

**you...the God {you worship...You will truly
know...your God...you (UST)**

Here every occurrence of **you** refers to the Israelites. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

**from under the burdens of the Egyptians (ULT)
from the heavy loads that the Egyptians make
you carry (UST)**

This refers to all the hard work the Egyptians forced upon the Israelites. See what you did in the previous verse. Alternate translation: "from the hard work the Egyptians force you to do" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

ULT

⁷ And I will take you to myself *as a people*, and I will be to you *as God*. And you will know that I am Yahweh your God, the one bringing you out from under *the burdens of the Egyptians*.

UST

⁷ I will claim you as my *own people*, and I will be *the God {you worship}*. You will truly know that I am Yahweh, your God who frees you from *the heavy loads that the Egyptians make you carry*.

Translation Words - ULT

- [as a people](#)
- [as God](#)
- [your God](#)
- [And you will know](#)
- [I am Yahweh](#)
- [the burdens of](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [as...own people](#)
- [the God...you worship](#)
- [your God](#)
- [You will truly know](#)
- [I am Yahweh](#)
- [the heavy loads](#)
- [that the Egyptians make you carry](#)

Exodus 6:8

you...to you (ULT)

you...to you (UST)

Here every occurrence of **you** refers to the Israelites. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

I raised my hand (ULT)

I swore (UST)

This is an action that signifies making an oath. Raising the hand may not have the same meaning in your culture, so you may need to use a different symbolic oath-taking action in your translation or simply translate the meaning. Alternate translation: “I promised” (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

as a possession (ULT)

and it will be yours (UST)

This means the Israelites will own the land. Alternate translation: “as your own land”

Translation Words - ULT

- [the land](#)
- [my hand](#)
- [to Abraham](#)
- [to Isaac](#)
- [and to Jacob](#)
- [as a possession](#)
- [I am Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the land](#)
- [I swore](#)
- [to Abraham](#)
- [to Isaac](#)
- [and to Jacob](#)
- [and it will be yours](#)
- [I, Yahweh, am {promising this}](#)

ULT

⁸ And I will bring you to [the land](#) that I raised [my hand](#) to give it to [Abraham](#), to [Isaac](#), and to [Jacob](#). And I will give it to you as a possession. I am Yahweh.”

UST

⁸ I will bring you to [the land](#) that I swore to give to [Abraham](#), to [Isaac](#), and to [Jacob](#). I will give it to you, and it will be yours. I, Yahweh, am {promising this}.”

Exodus 6:9

but they did not listen to Moses, because of shortness of spirit and because of hard slavery (ULT)

but they did not believe what he said, because they were discouraged and overworked (UST)

In some languages it will be necessary to put the reason for the people not listening before the result. Alternate translation: “but because of shortness of spirit and because of hard service, they did not listen to Moses” (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

because of shortness of spirit (ULT)

because they were discouraged (UST)

Here, the people’s **spirit** is spoken of as something that could be measured. By calling it “short,” the author is saying they did not have very much motivation or hope. Alternate translation: “because they had no hope”

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [spirit](#)
- [and because of...slavery](#)
- [hard](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [what he said](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [because they were discouraged](#)
- [and overworked](#)
- [and overworked](#)

ULT

⁹ And [Moses](#) spoke in this way to [the sons of Israel](#), but they did not listen to [Moses](#), because of shortness of [spirit](#) and because of [hard slavery](#).

UST

⁹ [Moses](#) told that to [the Israelites](#), but they did not believe [what he said](#), because they were [discouraged](#) and [overworked](#).

Exodus 6:10

saying (ULT)

Then...said (UST)

This is used to mark the beginning of a direct quotation. It can be omitted if it is unnatural.

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

¹⁰ And [Yahweh](#) spoke to [Moses](#), saying,

UST

¹⁰ Then [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#),

Exodus 6:11

that he should let the sons of Israel go from his land (ULT)

that he must allow the Israelites to leave his land (UST)

This statement tells Moses what to discuss with Pharaoh. Some languages may need to convey this information as a direct quotation. Be careful to change the third-person pronouns to second-person pronouns if you do this. Alternate translation: "and say, 'You must let the sons of Israel go from your land'" (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- king of
- Egypt
- the sons of
- Israel
- from his land

Translation Words - UST

- the king of Egypt
- the king of Egypt
- the king of Egypt
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- his land

ULT

11 "Go speak to [Pharaoh, king of Egypt](#), that he should let [the sons of Israel](#) go [from his land](#)."

UST

11 "Go tell [the king of Egypt](#) that he must allow [the Israelites](#) to leave [his land!](#)"

Exodus 6:12

before the face of Yahweh (ULT) to Yahweh (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of a person. There may also be a hint of impudence in Moses' attitude that is conveyed by the words **before the face of Yahweh**. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "in the presence of Yahweh" or "boldly to Yahweh" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Behold (ULT) Certainly, if (UST)

Behold is a term meant to focus the attention of the listener on what the speaker is about to say. If there is not a good way to translate this term in your language, this term can be omitted from the translation, or you can use an alternate translation like "as you know."

Behold, the sons of Israel have not listened to me, so how will Pharaoh listen to me (ULT)

Certainly, if the Israelites have not paid attention to what I told them, the king will not pay attention to what I tell him (UST)

Moses asked this question in hopes that God would change his mind about using Moses. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "Since the Israelites did not listen to me, neither will Pharaoh!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Behold, the sons of Israel have not listened to me, so how will Pharaoh listen to me (ULT)

Certainly, if the Israelites have not paid attention to what I told them, the king will not pay attention to what I tell him (UST)

Moses is presenting a reasoned argument: since this, then probably that. Use a natural way of expressing such arguments in your language. Alternate translation: "Since the sons of Israel have not listened to me, why would you think Pharaoh would listen to me?" (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

And I have uncircumcised lips (ULT) since I am a poor speaker (UST)

This is a metaphor that means that Moses was not a good speaker. It is somewhat crude; your translation of this phrase could convey that Moses spoke impolitely. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "And I do not speak well" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

¹² And [Moses](#) spoke before the face of [Yahweh](#), saying, "Behold, [the sons of Israel](#) have not listened to me, so how will [Pharaoh](#) listen to me? And I have [uncircumcised](#) lips."

UST

¹² But [Moses](#) said to [Yahweh](#), "Certainly, if [the Israelites](#) have not paid attention to what I told them, [the king](#) will not pay attention to what I tell him, since I [am a poor speaker](#)."

- the sons of
- Israel
- Pharaoh
- uncircumcised

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- Yahweh
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the king
- am a poor speaker

Exodus 6:13

to...and he gave them a command...the sons of Israel and to Pharaoh (ULT)

to...and commanded them to go...the Israelites and to the king of Egypt (UST)

This phrase is somewhat difficult to translate. Here, **command** could also be translated as “charge” or “commission.” Another difficulty is knowing to whom the command is directed: is it to Moses and Aaron or are they to give the command to Pharaoh and the Israelites; thus **to** could be translated as “for” or “regarding.” Alternate translations: “and he charged them regarding the sons of Israel and regarding Pharaoh” or “and he gave them a command for the sons of Israel and for Pharaoh” or “and he gave them a commission to the sons of Israel and to Pharaoh”

ULT

¹³ And Yahweh spoke to Moses and to Aaron, and he gave them a command to the sons of Israel and to Pharaoh, king of Egypt: to bring the sons of Israel out from the land of Egypt.

UST

¹³ But Yahweh spoke to Moses and Aaron and commanded them to go to the Israelites and to the king of Egypt in order to free the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt.

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- from...land of
- Aaron
- and he gave them a command
- the sons of
- sons of
- Israel
- the...Israel
- Pharaoh
- king of
- Egypt
- the...Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- from their slavery
- Aaron
- and commanded them to go
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the king of Egypt
- the king of Egypt
- in Egypt
- the king of Egypt

Exodus 6:14

Verses 14-27 are background information. Use the natural form in your language for expressing background information. (See: [Background Information](#))

the heads of (ULT) the original clan leaders (UST)

Here, **heads** refers to the original leaders of the clan. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "the ancestors of" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Reuben...Israel...Hanoch and Pallu, Hezron and Karmi...Reuben (ULT)

Reuben...Jacob's...Hanok, Pallu, Hezron, and

Karmi...The clans of Reuben are descended from them (UST)

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the heads of
- the houses of
- their fathers
- The sons of
- Reuben
- Reuben
- the firstborn of
- Israel
- Hanoch
- the clans of

Translation Words - UST

- the original clan leaders
- the original clan leaders
- the original clan leaders
- Jacob's
- oldest son
- Reuben
- The clans of Reuben are descended from them
- had these sons
- Hanok
- The clans of Reuben are descended from them

ULT

¹⁴ These were the heads of the houses of their fathers: The sons of Reuben, the firstborn of Israel: Hanoch and Pallu, Hezron and Karmi. These were the clans of Reuben.

UST

¹⁴ These are the original clan leaders: Jacob's oldest son Reuben had these sons: Hanok, Pallu, Hezron, and Karmi. The clans of Reuben are descended from them.

Exodus 6:15

Simeon...Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jakin, and Zohar, and Shaul...Simeon (ULT)
The sons of Simeon...were: Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar, and Shaul...They were ancestors of clans that have those same names (UST)

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the sons of...were](#)
- [the son of](#)
- [Simeon](#)
- [Simeon](#)
- [and Shaul](#)
- [a Canaanite woman](#)
- [the clans of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The sons of Simeon](#)
- [They were ancestors of clans that have those same names](#)
- [The sons of Simeon](#)
- [Shaul's mother was a woman from the land of Canaan](#)
- [and Shaul](#)
- [Shaul's mother was a woman from the land of Canaan](#)
- [They were ancestors of clans that have those same names](#)

ULT

¹⁵ [And the sons of Simeon were](#) Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jakin, and Zohar, [and Shaul—the son of a Canaanite woman](#). These were [the clans of Simeon](#).

UST

¹⁵ [The sons of Simeon were:](#) Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar, [and Shaul](#). [Shaul's mother was a woman from the land of Canaan](#). [They were ancestors of clans that have those same names](#).

Exodus 6:16

Levi...Gershon, and Kohath, and Merari...Levi (ULT)

the names of the descendants of Levi...

Gershon, Kohath, and Merari...Levi was (UST)

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

137 (ULT)

137 (UST)

Alternate translation: "one hundred thirty-seven" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the names...of](#)
- [of the sons](#)
- [Levi](#)
- [Levi](#)
- [And the...of...years](#)
- [years...were](#)
- [the life of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the names of the descendants of Levi](#)
- [Levi was](#)
- [the names of the descendants of Levi](#)
- [the names of the descendants of Levi](#)
- [old](#)
- [years](#)
- [when he died](#)

ULT

¹⁶ And these are [the names of the sons of Levi](#), from their genealogy: Gershon, and Kohath, and Merari. [And the years of the life of Levi were 137 years.](#)

UST

¹⁶ These are [the names of the descendants of Levi](#) in each generation: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. [Levi was 137 years old when he died.](#)

Exodus 6:17

Gershon...Libni and Shimei (ULT) The sons of Gershon...were Libni and Shimei (UST)

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- The sons of...were
- according to their clans

Translation Words - UST

- The sons of Gershon
- They were ancestors of clans that have those names

ULT

¹⁷ The sons of Gershon were Libni and Shimei, according to their clans.

UST

¹⁷ The sons of Gershon were Libni and Shimei. They were ancestors of clans that have those names.

Exodus 6:18

Kohath...Amram and Izhar and Hebron and Uzziel...Kohath (ULT)

The sons of Kohath were...Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel...Kohath...old when he died (UST)

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

133 (ULT)

133 (UST)

Alternate translation: "one hundred thirty-three" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the sons of...were](#)
- [And the years of](#)
- [were...years](#)
- [the life of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The sons of Kohath were](#)
- [Kohath...old when he died](#)
- [was...years](#)
- [Kohath...old when he died](#)

ULT

¹⁸ [And the sons of Kohath were](#) Amram and Izhar and Hebron and Uzziel. [And the years of the life of Kohath were 133 years.](#)

UST

¹⁸ [The sons of Kohath were](#) Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. [Kohath was 133 years old when he died.](#)

Exodus 6:19

Merari...Mahli and Mushi (ULT) The sons of Merari...were Mahli and Mushi (UST)

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the sons of...were](#)
- [the clans of](#)
- [the Levites](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The sons of Merari](#)
- [were ancestors of clans that descended from Levi](#)
- [were ancestors of clans that descended from Levi](#)

ULT

¹⁹ [And the sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. These were the clans of the Levites, according to their genealogy.](#)

UST

¹⁹ [The sons of Merari were Mahli and Mushi. These were ancestors of clans that descended from Levi by each generation.](#)

Exodus 6:20**Amram...Aaron...Moses...Amram (ULT)****Amram...Aaron...Moses...Amram (UST)**

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Jochebed (ULT)**Jochebed (UST)**

This is the name of a woman. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

his aunt (ULT)**his father's sister (UST)**

Here the term **his aunt** specifically means his father's sister. If your language uses a different term that is specific in this way, translators should use it. (See: [Kinship](#))

137 (ULT)**137 (UST)**

Alternate translation: "one hundred thirty-seven" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And she bore](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [And the years of](#)
- [were...years](#)
- [the life of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [She was the mother of](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [lived](#)
- [years](#)
- [years](#)

ULT

²⁰ And Amram took Jochebed, his aunt, as a wife for himself. [And she bore](#) him [Aaron](#) and [Moses](#). [And the years of the life of](#) Amram were 137 [years](#).

UST

²⁰ Amram married his father's sister, Jochebed. [She was the mother of](#) [Aaron](#) and [Moses](#). Amram [lived](#) 137 [years](#).

Exodus 6:21

Izhar were Korah, and Nepheg, and Zichri (ULT)

The sons of Izhar..were Korah, Nepheg, and Zichri (UST)

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the sons of](#)
- [were Korah](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The sons of Izhar](#)
- [were Korah](#)

ULT

²¹ [And the sons of Izhar were Korah,](#)
[and Nepheg, and Zichri.](#)

UST

²¹ [The sons of Izhar were Korah,](#)
[Nepheg, and Zichri.](#)

Exodus 6:22

Uzziel were Mishael, and Elzaphan, and Sithri (ULT)

The sons of Uzziel...were Mishael, Elzaphan, and Sithri (UST)

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the sons of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The sons of Uzziel](#)

ULT

²² [And the sons of](#) Uzziel were Mishael, and Elzaphan, and Sithri.

UST

²² [The sons of Uzziel](#) were Mishael, Elzaphan, and Sithri.

Exodus 6:23

Aaron...Amminadab...Nahshon...Nadab...

Abihu...Eleazar...Ithamar (ULT)

Aaron...Amminadab...of Nahshon...to Nadab...

Abihu...Eleazar...and Ithamar (UST)

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Elisheba (ULT)

Elisheba (UST)

This is the name of a woman. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Aaron](#)
- [And she bore](#)
- [Eleazar](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Aaron](#)
- [Elisheba gave birth](#)
- [Eleazar](#)

ULT

²³ And [Aaron](#) took Elisheba, the daughter of Amminadab, the sister of Nahshon, as a wife for himself. [And she bore](#) him Nadab and Abihu, [Eleazar](#) and Ithamar.

UST

²³ [Aaron](#) married Elisheba. She was the daughter of Amminadab and sister of Nahshon. [Elisheba gave birth](#) to Nadab, Abihu, [Eleazar](#), and Ithamar.

Exodus 6:24

Korah were Assir, and Elkanah, and Abiasaph (ULT)

The sons of Korah...were Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph (UST)

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

**the Korahites (ULT)
were the ancestors of the Korahite people (UST)**

This was the name of the clan of people descended from Korah. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the sons of](#)
- [Korah](#)
- [the Korahites](#)
- [the clans of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The sons of Korah](#)
- [were the ancestors of the Korahite people](#)
- [The sons of Korah](#)
- [were the ancestors of the Korahite people](#)

ULT

²⁴ [And the sons of Korah](#) were Assir, and Elkanah, and Abiasaph. These were [the clans of the Korahites](#).

UST

²⁴ [The sons of Korah](#) were Assir, Elkanah, and Abiasaph. They [were the ancestors of the Korahite people](#).

Exodus 6:25

And Eleazar...Aaron...Putiel...Phinehas (ULT) Eleazar...Aaron...of Putiel...to Phinehas (UST)

These are the names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

the heads of (ULT) were the clan leaders descended from Levi (UST)

Here, **heads** represents family leaders. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "These were the leaders of the families" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And Eleazar](#)
- [son of](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [And she bore](#)
- [Phinehas](#)
- [the heads of](#)
- [the fathers of](#)
- [the Levites](#)
- [according to their clans](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Aaron](#)
- [s son](#)
- [Eleazar](#)
- [and she gave birth](#)
- [to Phinehas](#)
- [were the clan leaders descended from Levi](#)
- [were the clan leaders descended from Levi](#)
- [were the clan leaders descended from Levi](#)
- [in each generation](#)

ULT

²⁵ [And Eleazar, son of Aaron](#) took a wife for himself from the daughters of [Putiel](#). [And she bore him Phinehas](#). These were [the heads of the fathers of the Levites, according to their clans](#).

UST

²⁵ [Aaron's son Eleazar](#) married one of the daughters of [Putiel](#), [and she gave birth to Phinehas](#). These [were the clan leaders descended from Levi in each generation](#).

Exodus 6:26

by their hosts (ULT) organized as army units (UST)

The term **hosts** refers to a large group of people often organized into groups for war. Alternate translation: "by their groups" or "by their divisions" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Aaron](#)
- [and Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [from...land of](#)
- [the...Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Aaron](#)
- [and Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [all the Israelites](#)
- [all the Israelites](#)
- [of Egypt](#)
- [of Egypt](#)

ULT

²⁶ It was [Aaron and Moses](#) to whom [Yahweh](#) said, "Bring out [the sons of Israel](#) from the [land of Egypt](#) by their hosts."

UST

²⁶ [Aaron and Moses](#) were the ones to whom [Yahweh](#) said, "Lead [all the Israelites](#) out of [Egypt](#) organized as army units."

Exodus 6:27

to bring out (ULT) in order to bring...out (UST)

This expresses their goal when they spoke to Pharaoh. Use a natural way in your language for indicating purpose. See the UST. (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- king of
- Egypt
- from Egypt
- the sons of
- Israel
- Moses
- and Aaron

Translation Words - UST

- They
- They
- king of
- king of
- the...Egypt
- of Egypt
- the Israelites
- the Israelites

ULT

²⁷ They were the ones who spoke to [Pharaoh, king of Egypt](#), to bring out [the sons of Israel from Egypt](#). It was [Moses and Aaron](#).

UST

²⁷ They were the ones who spoke to the [king of Egypt](#) in order to bring [the Israelites out of Egypt](#).

Exodus 6:28

And it happened on a day that (ULT)

On the day that (UST)

This marks a transition from the record of the genealogy back to the narrative. Consider placing a section break at the start of this verse.
Alternate translation: "One day" (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- on a day
- Yahweh
- Moses
- in the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- On the day
- Yahweh
- Moses
- in Egypt
- in Egypt

ULT

²⁸ And it happened on a day that Yahweh spoke to Moses in the land of Egypt,

UST

²⁸ On the day that Yahweh spoke to Moses in Egypt,

Exodus 6:29

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- I am Yahweh
- Pharaoh
- king of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- he
- said
- I am Yahweh
- the king
- the king
- the king

ULT

²⁹ and Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, "I am Yahweh. Speak to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, everything that I speak to you."

UST

²⁹ he said, "I am Yahweh. Tell the king everything that I say to you."

Exodus 6:30

to the face of Yahweh (ULT) to Yahweh (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of a person. There may also be a hint of impudence in Moses' attitude that is conveyed by saying he spoke before **the face of Yahweh**. See how you translated this in 6:12. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "in the presence of Yahweh" or "boldly to Yahweh" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Behold, I have uncircumcised lips, so how will Pharaoh listen to me (ULT)

Please listen to me. I am not a good speaker. So why should the king listen to what I tell him (UST)

Moses asks this question hoping to change God's mind about sending him. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "Behold, I am not a good speaker. Pharaoh will certainly not listen to me!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Behold (ULT)

Please listen to me (UST)

Behold is a term meant to focus the attention of the listener on what the speaker is about to say. If there is not a good way to translate this term in your language, this term can be omitted from the translation, or you can use an alternate translation like "as you know."

I have uncircumcised lips (ULT)

I am not a good speaker (UST)

This is a metaphor that means that Moses thought he was not a good speaker. It is somewhat crude, and your translation of this phrase could convey that Moses spoke impolitely. See how you translated this in 6:12. Alternate translation: "I always fail to speak well" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [have uncircumcised](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [not a good speaker](#)
- [the king](#)

ULT

³⁰ But [Moses](#) said to the face of [Yahweh](#), "Behold, I [have uncircumcised](#) lips, so how will [Pharaoh](#) listen to me?"

UST

³⁰ But [Moses](#) said to [Yahweh](#), "Please listen to me. I am [not a good speaker](#). So why should [the king](#) listen to what I tell him?"

Exodus 7

Exodus 7 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- v. 1-9: The end of Yahweh's re-sending of Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh
- v. 10-13: Pharaoh's first refusal, the sign of the snakes
- v. 14-25: First plague: the Nile turns to blood

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Miracles

When Yahweh had Moses perform miracles, Pharaoh's men were able to copy these miracles. It is unknown how they were able to do this, but since it was not from Yahweh, they were probably done under some evil power. (See: [miracle](#), [wonder](#), [sign](#) and [evil](#), [wicked](#), [unpleasant](#))

Pharaoh's hard heart

Pharaoh's heart is often described as hard, strong, or heavy in this chapter. This means that he was not willing to obey Yahweh's instructions.

Possible Translation Difficulties in this Chapter Include:

- Moses as God to Pharaoh
- A number of difficult terms: prophet, signs, wonders, miracles, sorcerers, magicians, magic, judgments, canals, reservoirs
- The use of "heart" to refer to the seat of will and emotion
- Up to third-level quotations

Exodus 7:1

Moses (ULT) answered (UST)

After this phrase, a direct quote begins that continues to the end of [verse 5](#). It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Look (ULT) See (UST)

This is used to draw attention to surprising information that follows. Alternative translation: "Listen carefully"

I have made you God to Pharaoh (ULT) I am putting you in front of the king {like} a god (UST)

This means Moses would represent the same authority to Pharaoh as God did to Moses. See how you translated the very similar phrase in [Exodus 4:16](#). Alternate translation: "I will cause Pharaoh to consider you as a god" (See: [Metaphor](#))

and your brother Aaron will be your prophet (ULT) and your brother Aaron will {speak for you like} a prophet (UST)

This phrase compares Aaron to a prophet, because Aaron will actually be the one who proclaims to Pharaoh what Moses tells him. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 4:16](#). Alternate translation: "and Aaron your brother will act like your prophet" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [God](#)
- [to Pharaoh](#)
- [your brother](#)
- [and...Aaron](#)
- [your prophet](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [answered](#)
- [in front of the king](#)
- [like} a god](#)
- [your brother](#)
- [and...Aaron](#)
- [speak for you like} a prophet](#)

ULT

¹ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Look, I have made you [God to Pharaoh](#), and [your brother Aaron](#) will be [your prophet](#)."

UST

¹ [Yahweh answered](#), "See, I am putting you [in front of the king](#) {[like](#)} [a god](#), and [your brother Aaron](#) will {[speak for you like](#)} [a prophet](#)."

Exodus 7:2

your brother (ULT)

your {older} brother (UST)

Aaron is older than Moses. If your language uses a different term for the sibling relationship based on gender and age order, choose the appropriate one. (See: [Kinship](#))

that he should let the sons of Israel go from his land (ULT)

to let the Israelites leave his land (UST)

Some languages may need to make this a direct quotation. If so, be sure to mark it as a second-level quotation, subordinate to Yahweh's main speech. See what you did in [6:25](#). Alternative translation: "saying, 'You must let the sons of Israel go from your land'" (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

from his land (ULT)

his land (UST)

Alternate translation: "from Egypt"

Translation Words - ULT

- [I will command you](#)
- [your brother](#)
- [And...Aaron](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [from his land](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [I instruct you](#)
- [your {older} brother](#)
- [to...Aaron](#)
- [the king...the king](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [his land](#)

ULT

² You shall say everything that [I will command you](#). And [your brother Aaron](#) shall speak to [Pharaoh](#) that he should let [the sons of Israel go from his land](#).

UST

² You must tell everything [I instruct you](#) to [your {older} brother Aaron](#), and he will tell it all to [the king](#). He must tell [the king](#) to let [the Israelites](#) leave [his land](#).

Exodus 7:3

will harden the heart of Pharaoh (ULT) will make the king stubborn. Because of this (UST)

This means God will make him stubborn. His stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were **hard**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in [Exodus 4:21](#), but note the slightly different metaphor there: the heart being strong vs. **hard** here. Alternate translation: "will cause Pharaoh to be stubborn" (See: [Metaphor](#))

my signs and my miracles (ULT) of miracles (UST)

The words **signs** and **wonders** mean basically the same thing. God uses them to emphasize the greatness of what he will do in Egypt. If your language does not use repetition in this way, you can combine them. (See: [Doublet](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- will harden
- the heart of
- Pharaoh
- and I will multiply
- my signs
- my miracles
- in the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- will make...stubborn. Because of this
- will make...stubborn. Because of this
- the king
- even though I will do many kinds
- of miracles
- of miracles
- here in Egypt
- here in Egypt

ULT

³ But I will harden the heart of Pharaoh, and I will multiply my signs and my miracles in the land of Egypt.

UST

³ But I will make the king stubborn. Because of this, even though I will do many kinds of miracles here in Egypt,

Exodus 7:4

to you (ULT)

you (UST)

Here, **you** means Moses and Aaron. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a dual form (if you have one) or plural form (if not) here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

my hand (ULT)

Then I will punish...very severely (UST)

The words **my hand** represent God’s great power. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “my power” (See: [Metonymy](#))

on Egypt (ULT)

the Egyptians (UST)

Here, **on Egypt** refers to the land and everything in it, including people, animals, and plants. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. (See: [Metonymy](#))

These phrases refer to the Israelites in three different ways; they do not refer to three different groups of people. Here, **armies** is the same word translated “hosts” in [Exodus 6:26](#). Alternate translation: “the armies of my Israelite people”

ULT

⁴ And [Pharaoh](#) will not listen to you, so I will put [my hand on Egypt](#) and will bring out my armies, [my people, the sons of Israel, from the land of Egypt](#) with great judgments.

UST

⁴ [the king](#) will not obey you. [Then I will punish the Egyptians very severely](#) and will lead [my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt](#) as an army.

Translation Words - ULT

- [Pharaoh](#)
- [my hand](#)
- [on Egypt](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [my people](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [from the land of](#)
- [with...judgments](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the king](#)
- [Then I will punish...very severely](#)
- [out of Egypt](#)
- [Then I will punish...very severely](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [out of Egypt](#)
- [my people](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

Exodus 7:5

And the Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh (ULT)

they will know that I am Yahweh (UST)

This is the result of God rescuing the Israelites. If it would be more natural in your language, you could reverse the order of these phrases, since the second phrase gives the reason for the result that the first phrase describes. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

when I stretch out my hand over (ULT)

Once I have proven how powerful I am to (UST)

This phrase represents God's great power. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "when I show my powerful acts against" (See: [Metonymy](#))

to bring the sons of Israel out from their midst (ULT)

by rescuing the Israelites from being their slaves (UST)

The goal of God's powerful acts was to rescue the Israelites. Use a natural way in your language for indicating purpose. Alternate translation: "so that I bring the sons of Israel out from their midst" (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the Egyptians
- Egypt
- And...will know
- I am Yahweh
- my hand
- the sons of
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- Once I have proven how powerful I am
- they
- the Egyptians
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- will know
- I am Yahweh

ULT

⁵ And the Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh when I stretch out my hand over Egypt to bring the sons of Israel out from their midst."

UST

⁵ Once I have proven how powerful I am to the Egyptians by rescuing the Israelites from being their slaves, they will know that I am Yahweh."

Exodus 7:6

And...did...they did (ULT) did...to do (UST)

This repetition emphasizes the statement. If saying the same thing twice might be confusing for your readers, you can combine the phrases into one. (See: [Parallelism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [commanded](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [told](#)

ULT

⁶ And [Moses and Aaron](#) did; they did just as [Yahweh commanded](#) them.

UST

⁶ [Moses and Aaron](#) did everything that [Yahweh told](#) them to do.

Exodus 7:7

This verse contains background information. Use the natural form in your language for expressing background information. (See: [Background Information](#))

80...83 (ULT)
was 80...was 83 (UST)

Alternate translation: "eighty ... eighty-three" (See: [Numbers](#))

was a son of 80 years...was a son of 83 years (ULT)
was 80 years old...was 83 years old (UST)

The phrase **a son of**, followed by a number and then **years**, is an idiom that refers to their age. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And Moses](#)
- [was a son of](#)
- [was a son of \(2\)](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the king of Egypt](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [was 80](#)
- [was 83 \(2\)](#)
- [and Aaron](#)

ULT

⁷ [And Moses was a son of 80 years and Aaron was a son of 83 years](#) when they were speaking to [Pharaoh](#).

UST

⁷ When {God sent} them to talk to [the king of Egypt](#), [Moses was 80 years old and Aaron was 83 years old](#).

Exodus 7:8

And Yahweh said (ULT)

Yahweh said (UST)

This verse marks the beginning of new sections, both major and minor. The major story of the plagues and Exodus itself unfolds from here until after Pharaoh's army is defeated at the Red Sea. The next minor event is the miracle of the rods becoming snakes. Either by using particular forms that your language uses to mark transitions or by making a section break and heading, this transition should be marked for readers. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

saying (ULT)

said (UST)

Here, **saying** marks the beginning of a direct quote and is often omitted in translation when such a construction is unnatural in the target language. See UST.

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [to Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)

ULT

⁸ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#) and to [Aaron](#) saying,

UST

⁸ [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#) and [Aaron](#),

Exodus 7:9

For Pharaoh will speak to you, saying, ‘Create a miracle yourself,’ and you shall say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and throw it down before the face of Pharaoh; let it become a serpent (ULT) If the king says to you, ‘Show me that God sent you by performing a miracle,’ then say to Aaron, ‘Throw your staff down in front of the king in order that it may become a snake (UST)

The two quotations in this verse could be stated as indirect quotes.
 Alternate translation: “When Pharaoh tells you to do a miracle, then you will tell Aaron to take his staff and throw it down before Pharaoh so that it may become a snake” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

ULT

⁹ “For **Pharaoh** will speak to you, saying, ‘Create **a miracle** yourself,’ and you shall say to **Aaron**, ‘Take **your staff** and throw it down **before the face of Pharaoh**; let it become **a serpent**.”

UST

⁹ “If **the king** says to you, ‘Show me that God sent you by performing **a miracle**,’ then say to **Aaron**, ‘Throw **your staff** down **in front of the king in order that it may become a snake**.”

Take your staff and throw it down before the face of Pharaoh; let it become a serpent (ULT)
Throw your staff down in front of the king in order that it may become a snake (UST)

This is a second-level direct quotation. The second level may either end after **Pharaoh** or at the end of the verse. If you did not decide to make it an indirect quotation, it may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

saying (ULT)
says (UST)

Here, **saying** marks the beginning of a direct quote and is often omitted in translation when such a construction is unnatural in the target language. See UST.

to you...yourself (ULT)
to you...Show me that God sent you by performing (UST)

These pronouns are plural, referring to Moses and Aaron. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a dual form (if you have one) or plural form (if not) here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

before the face of Pharaoh (ULT)
in front of the king (UST)

Although **before the face of** still has the standard figurative meaning of “in the presence of,” it is a much more literal use here. Moses and Aaron are to actually do the miracles in front of Pharaoh so that Pharaoh can see them. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternative translation: “so Pharaoh can see it” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- Pharaoh
- a miracle
- Aaron
- your staff
- before the face of
- a serpent

Translation Words - UST

- the king
- the king
- a miracle
- Aaron
- your staff
- in front of
- in order that it may become a snake

Exodus 7:10

before the face of Pharaoh and before the faces of his servants (ULT) in front of the king and his officials (UST)

This time, while **before the face of** still has the standard figurative meaning of “in the presence of,” it is a much more literal use here. Aaron actually does this right in front of Pharaoh and his servants so they could watch what happens. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternative translation: “where Pharaoh and his servants could see it” (See: [Metonymy](#))

his servants (ULT) his officials (UST)

Here, **his servants** does not refer common servants but probably refers to important advisors that would be in the king's court.

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [his servants](#)
- [a serpent](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [commanded](#)
- [his staff](#)
- [before the face of](#)
- [and before the faces of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Aaron and](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [his officials](#)
- [and it became a snake](#)
- [the king](#)
- [the king](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [told them](#)
- [his staff](#)
- [in front of...and](#)
- [in front of...and](#)

ULT

¹⁰ And [Moses and Aaron](#) entered in to [Pharaoh](#), and they did just as [Yahweh commanded](#). And [Aaron](#) threw down [his staff before the face of Pharaoh and before the faces of his servants](#), and it became [a serpent](#).

UST

¹⁰ So [Aaron and Moses](#) went to [the king](#) and did what [Yahweh told them](#) to do. [Aaron](#) threw [his staff down in front of the king and his officials](#), and it became [a snake](#).

Exodus 7:11

wise men and sorcerers...the magicians of (ULT)

his wise men and men who did magic...They (UST)

Here, **magicians** probably describes both **wise men and sorcerers** rather than being a third group. See translationWords articles for each term.

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- wise men
- and sorcerers
- the magicians of
- by their magic
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Then the king
- his wise men
- and men who did magic
- They
- They
- using their magic

ULT

¹¹ And Pharaoh also called for wise men and sorcerers. And the magicians of Egypt also did so by their magic.

UST

¹¹ Then the king called his wise men and men who did magic. They did the same thing, using their magic.

Exodus 7:12

man (ULT)

They all (UST)

Alternate translation: “magician”

And...swallowed up (ULT)

Then...ate (UST)

Alternate translation: “ate up” or “devoured”

**And the staff of Aaron swallowed up their
staves (ULT)**

Then Aaron’s snake ate their snakes (UST)

This is a surprising and amusing twist which was not what the magicians expected. Use a natural way in your language for introducing a contrast. (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

the staff of...their staves (ULT)

s snake...their snakes (UST)

It may be necessary in some languages to translate the word **staff** as “snake,” since it had turned into one. This may be true if it would not make sense in the target language to say (because it is not living) that a staff swallowed or ate something. It may also may not make sense in some languages to speak of the snakes as staves once they have been transformed. (See: [Personification](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [his staff](#)
- [the staff of](#)
- [their staves](#)
- [serpents](#)
- [Aaron](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [their staves](#)
- [s snake](#)
- [their snakes](#)
- [and the staves became snakes](#)
- [Aaron](#)

ULT

¹² And each man threw down [his staff](#), and they became [serpents](#). And [the staff of Aaron](#) swallowed up [their staves](#).

UST

¹² They all threw down [their staves](#), and [the staves became snakes](#). Then [Aaron’s snake](#) ate [their snakes](#)!

Exodus 7:13

And the heart of Pharaoh was strong (ULT) But...the king continued to be stubborn (UST)

Pharaoh's stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were **strong**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in [Exodus 4:21](#), but note that this is a neutral statement (it does not say that anyone caused him to be stubborn, as many others in this part of the narrative do). Alternate translation: "Pharaoh was still defiant" (See: [Metaphor](#))

just as Yahweh had spoken (ULT) just as Yahweh had said (UST)

Because Yahweh's prediction precedes this event, some languages may need to place the reference to that prediction before the statement that it was fulfilled. See UST.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the heart of](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [And...was strong](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [But...continued to be stubborn](#)
- [But...continued to be stubborn](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the king](#)

ULT

¹³ And [the heart of Pharaoh was strong](#), and he did not listen to them, just as [Yahweh](#) had spoken.

UST

¹³ [But](#), just as [Yahweh](#) had said, [the king continued to be stubborn](#) and would not obey what Aaron and Moses said.

Exodus 7:14

The heart of Pharaoh is heavy (ULT)

The king is very stubborn (UST)

Now Yahweh speaks of Pharaoh's stubborn attitude as if Pharaoh's **heart** were **heavy**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. This is a neutral statement (it does not say that anyone caused him to be stubborn as many others in this part of the narrative do). See how you translated this in [Exodus 7:13](#), but note the slightly different metaphor there: the heart being strong vs **heavy** here. Alternate translation: "Pharaoh is defiant" (See: [Metaphor](#))

And...said (ULT)

Then...said (UST)

A new scene begins here, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- The heart of
- Pharaoh
- to let...go
- the people

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- The king
- is very stubborn
- to allow...to go
- my people

ULT

¹⁴ And Yahweh said to Moses, "The heart of Pharaoh is heavy; he has refused to let the people go."

UST

¹⁴ Then Yahweh said to Moses, "The king is very stubborn. He refuses to allow my people to go."

Exodus 7:15

Behold (ULT) as he is going down (UST)

Behold is used to draw attention to information that follows.

he goes out to the water (ULT) as he is going down...to the Nile River (UST)

There are various theories as to what Pharaoh would go down to the Nile to do, but there is no need to speculate or specify in the translation.

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- to the water
- the river
- in your hand
- And...the staff
- into a snake

Translation Words - UST

- him
- to the Nile River
- the riverbank
- with you
- the staff
- a snake

ULT

¹⁵ Go to **Pharaoh**. Behold, in the morning he goes out **to the water**, so station yourself to meet him on the edge of **the river**. And take **in your hand the staff** that turned **into a snake**.

UST

¹⁵ So go meet **him** as he is going down **to the Nile River** in the morning. Wait for him on **the riverbank**. Take **with you the staff** that became **a snake**.

Exodus 7:16

And say to him (ULT)

Say to him (UST)

Alternate translation: "Say to Pharaoh"

the God of the Hebrews (ULT)

The God...the one we Hebrews worship (UST)

Yahweh claimed the Hebrews (Israelites) as his own. They worshiped him. This is a possessive of social relationship. (See: [Possession](#))

Let my people go, and they will serve me in the wilderness. And behold, until now, you have not listened (ULT)

to let his people go in order that they may worship him in the desert. But you still have not obeyed (UST)

This is a third-level quotation. It should be marked in some manner that distinguishes it from the outer levels. Alternatively, you could translate it as an indirect quotation as in the UST. If you do this, take care to adjust the pronoun person (second/third) as appropriate. (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

And behold (ULT)

But (UST)

Here, **behold** is used to draw attention to the information that follows. In some languages, it will not be translated.

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [the God of](#)
- [the Hebrews](#)
- [has sent me](#)
- [my people](#)
- [and they will serve me](#)
- [in the wilderness](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The God](#)
- [named} Yahweh](#)
- [the one we Hebrews worship](#)
- [sent me](#)
- [his people go](#)
- [in order that they may worship him](#)
- [in the desert](#)

ULT

¹⁶ And say to him, 'Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to you to say, "Let my people go, and they will serve me in the wilderness. And behold, until now, you have not listened."

UST

¹⁶ Say to him, 'The God {named} Yahweh, the one we Hebrews worship, sent me to you to tell you to let his people go in order that they may worship him in the desert. But you still have not obeyed.'

Exodus 7:17

Thus says Yahweh (ULT) So Yahweh says this (UST)

This quotation formula is used to introduce commands from Yahweh. See 4:intro for more information.

By this (ULT) This is the way (UST)

This begins a third-level quotation that continues until the end of verse 18. It should be marked in some manner that distinguishes it from the outer levels. It is possible that the third-level quotation actually ends before or after **Behold**, in which case, in the rest of the quote I refers to Moses, not Yahweh. (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

Behold (ULT) Look out (UST)

Behold is a term meant to focus the attention of the listener on what the speaker is about to say. Alternate translation: "Look at this"

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- you will know
- I am Yahweh
- the waters
- are in the river
- with the staff
- is in my hand
- to blood

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- you will know
- I am Yahweh
- the water
- is in the Nile River
- with the staff
- is in my hand
- blood

ULT

¹⁷ Thus says Yahweh: "By this you will know that I am Yahweh. Behold, I am about to strike against the waters that are in the river with the staff that is in my hand, and they will turn to blood.

UST

¹⁷ So Yahweh says this: "This is the way you will know that I am Yahweh. Look out! I am going to hit the water that is in the Nile River with the staff that is in my hand. {When I do that,} the water will become blood.

Exodus 7:18

and the river will stink (ULT) and the water in the river will smell bad (UST)

His warning, **the river will stink**, will happen because the fish die.
Alternate translation: “and because of that the river will stink” (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

to drink water (ULT) trying to find water to drink (UST)

This phrase introduces a purpose clause. Use a natural way in your language for introducing a purpose clause. Alternative translation: “in order to find water to drink” (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

And the Egyptians will exhaust themselves (ULT) The Egyptians will wear themselves out (UST)

Here, **themselves** refers back to the subject (**the Egyptians**) to indicated that the Egyptians are the object of the verb as well. Use a natural form in your language to show that the Egyptians are both subject and object. Alternate translation: “And the Egyptians will exhaust the Egyptians” (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

from the river (ULT) from the river (UST)

After this phrase, the direct quote of Yahweh’s commands ends. Depending on your decisions about the embedded quotation levels, you may have up to three levels of quotations that need to be closed here. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with closing quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the end of a quotation and quotations within quotations. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- are in the river
- the river
- the river
- will die
- the Egyptians
- water

Translation Words - UST

- the Nile River
- the water in the river
- the river
- will die
- The Egyptians
- water

ULT

¹⁸ And the fish that are in the river will die, and the river will stink. And the Egyptians will exhaust themselves to drink water from the river.”

UST

¹⁸ Then the fish in the Nile River will die, and the water in the river will smell bad. The Egyptians will wear themselves out trying to find water to drink from the river.”

Exodus 7:19

over their streams, over their canals, and over their pools, and over every reservoir of their water (ULT)

over the rivers, the canals, the ponds, and over all the stored water (UST)

This list is meant to expand on and reinforce the idea of all of the water in Egypt. You should translate the list in such a way that the locations of the blood are not limited to these specific places, but to imply universality. (See: [Merism](#))

**in all the land of (ULT)
throughout Egypt (UST)**

Alternate translation: "in every part of"

**both in containers of wood and in containers of stone (ULT)
even in wooden and stone jars (UST)**

This possessive show composition. Alternate translation: "and in containers made from wood and in containers made from stone" (See: [Possession](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [your staff](#)
- [your hand](#)
- [the waters of](#)
- [their water](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [blood](#)
- [blood](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [continued](#)
- [blood](#)
- [blood](#)
- [throughout Egypt](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [Hold...out...as though you were holding it](#)
- [your staff](#)
- [the water in](#)

ULT

¹⁹ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Say to [Aaron](#), 'Take [your staff](#) and stretch out [your hand](#) over [the waters of Egypt](#); over their streams, over their canals, and over their pools, and over every reservoir of [their water](#), and it will become [blood](#).' And there will be [blood](#) in all [the land of Egypt](#), both in containers of wood and in containers of stone."

UST

¹⁹ [Yahweh](#) continued, "Then tell [Aaron](#), 'Hold [your staff](#) out {as though you were holding it} over all [the water in Egypt](#)—over the rivers, the canals, the ponds, and over all [the stored water](#), in order that all of it may become [blood](#).' {When [Aaron](#) does that,} there will be [blood throughout Egypt](#), even in wooden and stone jars."

- the stored water
- Egypt
- throughout Egypt

Exodus 7:20

in the river (ULT)

in the Nile River (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, the name of the river may be made explicit. Alternate translation: "in the Nile River" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of his servants (ULT)

As the king and his officials were watching (UST)

This means in their sight. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [to blood](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [commanded](#)
- [the staff](#)
- [the water](#)
- [the water](#)
- [in the river](#)
- [in the river](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [his servants](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Aaron and](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [turned to blood](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [told them to do](#)
- [the king](#)
- [and his officials](#)
- [his staff...with it](#)
- [the water](#)
- [the water](#)
- [in the Nile River](#)
- [in the river](#)

ULT

²⁰ And [Moses and Aaron](#) did so, just as [Yahweh commanded](#). And he raised [the staff](#), and he struck [the water](#) that was [in the river](#), in the eyes of [Pharaoh](#) and in the eyes of [his servants](#). And all [the water](#) that was [in the river](#) turned to [blood](#).

UST

²⁰ So [Aaron and Moses](#) did what [Yahweh told them to do](#). As [the king and his officials](#) were watching, [Aaron](#) lifted up [his staff](#) and then struck [the water in the Nile River with it](#). All [the water in the river](#) turned to [blood](#).

Exodus 7:21

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- were in...the river
- the river
- river
- died
- the Egyptians
- Egypt
- water...the
- the blood
- the land of

Translation Words - UST

- in the river
- The water
- the river
- died
- blood
- Egyptians...the
- All...in Egypt
- water
- All...in Egypt

ULT

²¹ And the fish that were in the river died, and the river stank, so the Egyptians were not able to drink water from the river. And the blood was in all the land of Egypt.

UST

²¹ Then all the fish in the river died. The water smelled so bad that the Egyptians could not drink the water from the river. All the water in Egypt was blood.

Exodus 7:22

the magicians of (ULT) who did magic (UST)

See how you translated this term in 7:11. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

And the heart of Pharaoh was strong (ULT) So...the king continued to be stubborn (UST)

Pharaoh's stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were **strong**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. This is a neutral statement (it does not say that anyone caused him to be stubborn as many others in this part of the narrative do). See how you translated this in [Exodus 7:13](#). Alternate translation: "Pharaoh was still defiant" (See: [Metaphor](#))

just as Yahweh had spoken (ULT) just as Yahweh had said (UST)

Because Yahweh's prediction precedes this event, some languages may need to place the reference to that prediction before the statement that it was fulfilled. See UST and how you translated this in [7:13](#), where the same sentence appears.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the magicians of](#)
- [with their magic](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [the heart of](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [And...was strong](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Egyptian men](#)
- [who did magic](#)
- [using their magic](#)
- [So...continued to be stubborn](#)
- [So...continued to be stubborn](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the king](#)

ULT

²² And [the magicians of Egypt](#) did the same [with their magic](#). And [the heart of Pharaoh was strong](#), and he did not listen to them, just as [Yahweh](#) had spoken.

UST

²² But [the Egyptian men who did magic](#) did the same thing [using their magic](#). [So](#), just as [Yahweh](#) had said, [the king continued to be stubborn](#) and would not obey what Aaron and Moses said.

Exodus 7:23

And he did not set his heart even to this (ULT) and he did not think any more about it (UST)

This is an idiom meaning Pharaoh did not think about the meaning of the miracle he had just seen. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language.

Alternate translation: "And he did not consider what even this meant" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Pharaoh](#)
- [And...turned around](#)
- [his house](#)
- [his heart](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the king](#)
- [Then...turned](#)
- [his palace](#)
- [he did...think](#)

ULT

²³ And [Pharaoh turned around](#) and went into [his house](#). And he did not set [his heart](#) even to this.

UST

²³ Then [the king turned](#) and went back to [his palace](#), and [he did](#) not [think](#) any more about it.

Exodus 7:24

all the Egyptians (ULT)

All the Egyptians (UST)

The word **all** here is a generalization that means “many.” At the least, the upper class would have sent their slaves to dig for them.

However, it does indicate that all the Egyptians who wished to drink water had to dig or had to have dug for them. Alternate translation: “many of the Egyptians” (See: [Hyperbole](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Egyptians](#)
- [water](#)
- [from the waters](#)
- [the river](#)
- [of the river](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Egyptians](#)
- [the Nile River](#)
- [from the river](#)
- [to get water](#)
- [the water](#)

ULT

²⁴ And all [the Egyptians](#) dug [water](#) to drink around [the river](#), for they were not able to drink [from the waters of the river](#).

UST

²⁴ All [the Egyptians](#) dug into the ground near [the Nile River](#) to [get water](#) to drink, because they could not drink [the water from the river](#).

Exodus 7:25

And...were filled (ULT) passed (UST)

A new scene begins here. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

And seven days were filled (ULT) One week passed (UST)

This means seven days later. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. (See: [Idiom](#))

seven (ULT) One week (UST)

Alternate translation: "7" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [days](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the river](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [One week](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the Nile River](#)

ULT

²⁵ And seven [days](#) were filled after [Yahweh](#) struck [the river](#).

UST

²⁵ [One week](#) passed after [Yahweh](#) struck [the Nile River](#).

Exodus 8

Exodus 8 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- v. 1-15: Second plague: frogs
- v. 16-19: Third plague (first that magicians cannot imitate): gnats
- v. 20-32: Fourth plague: flies

Possible Translation Difficulties in this Chapter

- the exact insects in plagues 3-4 are not certain; translation teams will need to decide what insects they can use for each
- Pharaoh makes his own heart heavy, that is, he determines to be proud and resist Yahweh twice in this chapter
- the Israelites' sacrifices are spoken of as an abomination to the Egyptians, but it is not specified how or why that is

Lifting up the hand and staff:

In the next few chapters, God will instruct Moses or Aaron or both to raise his hand or staff or both hand and staff. The narrative will then record who will raise his hand or staff or both. The instruction and the action do not always match exactly. God may say raise your hand, and the narrative may say that Moses raised his staff. These are not conflicting reports. Translators should understand that the hand and the staff are always understood together. They are one unit, and they can both be mentioned, or they can be mentioned separately. In each case, Moses or Aaron raises his hand with the staff in it. This fact is merely expressed differently.

Exodus 8:1

Go (ULT)

Go back (UST)

This begins a direct quote that continues until the end of [verse 4](#).
(See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Thus says Yahweh (ULT)

Yahweh says that (UST)

This quotation formula is used to introduce commands from Yahweh. See [4:intro](#) for more information.

Thus (ULT)

that (UST)

Here, **Thus** begins a second-level quotation that continues until the end of [verse 4](#). It should be marked in some manner that distinguishes it from the outer level. (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

Let...go (ULT)

you must let...go (UST)

This begins a third-level quotation that continues until the end of [verse 4](#). It should be marked in some manner that distinguishes it from the outer levels. (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [my people](#)
- [and they shall serve me](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the king](#)
- [my people](#)
- [in order that they can worship me {in the desert}](#)

ULT

¹ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Go to [Pharaoh](#), and you shall say to him, 'Thus says [Yahweh](#): "Let [my people](#) go, and they shall serve me."

UST

¹ Then [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Go back to [the king](#) and tell him, '[Yahweh](#) says that you must let [my people](#) go in order that they can worship me {in the desert}."

Exodus 8:2

to let go (ULT) let them go (UST)

What Pharaoh is to **let go** is not specified, but “my people” or “the Israelites” are the understood object. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. Alternate translation: “to let the Israelites go” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

behold (ULT) watch out (UST)

Here, **behold** is an interjection meant to focus the attention of the listener on what comes next, in this case a dire warning. Alternate translation: “look out”

ULT

² And if you refuse to let go, behold! I am about to strike all your territory with frogs.

UST

² But if you do not let them go, watch out! I will punish you by sending frogs to cover your country.

Exodus 8:3

into your house and in the room of your bed and on your bed and into the house of your servants and among your people and in your ovens and in your kneading bowls (ULT) into your house. They will come into your bedroom and onto your bed. They will be in the houses of your slaves and all the rest of your people. They will even get into your ovens and your pans for mixing the materials for baking bread (UST)

This long list means “everywhere in Egypt.” It is presented in this way for rhetorical effect, that is, to convince Pharaoh of how bad this plague will be so he will obey. You should translate the list in such a way that the frogs’ location is not limited to these specific places. The list should imply universality. (See: [Merism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the river](#)
- [into your house](#)
- [and into the house of](#)
- [your servants](#)
- [and in your kneading bowls](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Nile River](#)
- [into your house](#)
- [They will be in...houses of](#)
- [the...your slaves](#)
- [and your pans for mixing the materials for baking bread](#)

ULT

³ And frogs will swarm [the river](#), and they will climb, and they will go [into your house](#) and in the room of your bed and on your bed [and into the house of your servants](#) and among your people and in your ovens [and in your kneading bowls](#),

UST

³ Not only will [the Nile River](#) be full of frogs, but the frogs will also come up out of the river [into your house](#). They will come into your bedroom and onto your bed. [They will be in the houses of your slaves](#) and all the rest of your people. They will even get into your ovens [and your pans for mixing the materials for baking bread](#).

Exodus 8:4

Up to three levels of quotes end at the end of this verse. Depending on how many levels you chose to mark as direct quotations, you should indicate them ending here with closing second-level (and third-level) quotation mark(s) or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the end of quotations and quotations within a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [your servants](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [your slaves](#)

ULT

⁴ and the frogs will climb on you and on your people and on all [your servants](#).”””

UST

⁴ The frogs will jump up on you, on the Egyptian people, and on all [your slaves](#).””

Exodus 8:5

And Yahweh said to Moses, “Say to Aaron**(ULT)****Yahweh also said to Moses, “Say this to Aaron****(UST)**

It may be helpful to translate this first quotation indirectly to avoid having two levels of quotations in this verse. Alternate translation: “And Yahweh told Moses to say to Aaron” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Reach out your hand with your staff over the canals, over the streams, and over the pools, and cause the frogs to come up on the land of Egypt (ULT)

Hold your staff in your hand and stretch it out {as though you were stretching it} over the river, the canals, and the ponds, and cause frogs to come up {from all this water} and to cover the land of Egypt (UST)

This is a second-level direct quotation if you chose to make **Say to Aaron** a direct quotation. In that case, it may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with second-level opening and closing quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation inside a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

your hand...with your staff (ULT)

your staff...in your hand...it (UST)

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

over the canals, over the streams, and over the pools (ULT)

as though you were stretching it} over the river, the canals, and the ponds (UST)

This list is meant to convey the idea of all the water in Egypt where frogs might live. You should translate the list in such a way that the locations are not limited to these specific places. The list should imply universality. This is made clear in 8:6. (See: [Merism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [your hand](#)
- [with your staff](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)

ULT

⁵ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), “Say to [Aaron](#), ‘Reach out [your hand with your staff](#) over the canals, over the streams, and over the pools, and cause the frogs to come up on [the land of Egypt](#).’”

UST

⁵ [Yahweh](#) also said to [Moses](#), “Say this to [Aaron](#): ‘Hold [your staff in your hand](#) and stretch [it](#) out {as though you were stretching it} over the river, the canals, and the ponds, and cause frogs to come up {from all this water} and to cover [the land of Egypt](#).’”

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- Aaron
- your staff...it
- in your hand
- the land of Egypt
- the land of Egypt

Exodus 8:6

**And Aaron reached out (ULT)
After Moses told that to him,} Aaron stretched
out (UST)**

It is implied that Moses told Yahweh's instructions to Aaron. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

**his hand (ULT)
his hand (UST)**

It is implied that Aaron was holding his staff as instructed. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff. Alternate translation: "his hand holding his staff" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

**And Aaron reached out his hand over the waters of (ULT)
After Moses told that to him,} Aaron stretched out his hand {as though he
were stretching it} over all the water in Egypt (UST)**

Aaron would not have been able to reach his hand over all the water in Egypt. He likely stretched his hand over some nearby portion of the Nile, symbolizing all the water of Egypt. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. (See: [Synecdoche](#))

**and...came up (ULT)
Then...came up {from the water (UST)**

[Verse 3](#) has specified from where the frogs will come. Here it is implied, but if it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

**the frog (ULT)
the frogs (UST)**

There were so many frogs that the text uses the collective singular. If that would be misunderstood in your language, you may simply use the plural, as in the UST. (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

**and the frog came up and covered the land of Egypt (ULT)
Then the frogs came up {from the water} and covered Egypt (UST)**

This means that there were frogs everywhere in Egypt. The image is like that of a blanket smothering the entire country. (Or more directly, like one giant, nation-sized frog sitting on top of the entire land). If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Aaron](#)

ULT

⁶ And [Aaron](#) reached out [his hand](#) over [the waters of Egypt](#), and the frog came up and covered the [land of Egypt](#).

UST

⁶ {After Moses told that to him,} [Aaron](#) stretched out [his hand](#) {as though he were stretching it} over all [the water in Egypt](#). Then the frogs came up {from the water} and covered [Egypt](#).

- his hand
- the waters of
- Egypt
- the...Egypt
- land of

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- his hand
- the water in Egypt
- Egypt
- the water in Egypt
- Egypt

Exodus 8:7

the magicians...with their magic (ULT) the men who did magic...by magic (UST)

See how you translated these in 7:11. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the magicians
- with their magic
- the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- the men who did magic
- by magic
- the land
- the land

ULT

⁷ And the magicians did likewise with their magic, and they brought up frogs over the land of Egypt.

UST

⁷ But the men who did magic did the same thing by magic, and they caused more frogs to come up from the water onto the land.

Exodus 8:8

And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron (ULT)

Then the king called Moses and Aaron (UST)

Alternate translation: "Then Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron" or "And the king summoned Moses and Aaron"

And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and he said (ULT)

Then the king called Moses and Aaron and said (UST)

It is implied that Moses and Aaron came to Pharaoh between the time when he called them and when he spoke to them. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and after they came, he said" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

to Yahweh that he may take away the frogs from me and from my people (ULT)

Yahweh to take these frogs away from me and my people (UST)

In some languages you may have to make the content of Pharaoh's prayer to Yahweh a direct quote. Note that this will make it a second-level quotation and you will need to mark it with second-level quotation markings if your language uses them. Alternate translation: "to Yahweh saying, 'Please take away the frogs from Pharaoh and from his people.'" (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

And I will let the people go, and they may sacrifice to Yahweh (ULT)

After that happens, I will allow your people to go to worship Yahweh (UST)

This promise is conditional on the frogs going away. Use a natural form in your language for hypothetical situations. Alternate translation: "Once the frogs are gone, I will let the people go, and they may sacrifice to Yahweh" (See: [Hypothetical Situations](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- And...called
- for Moses
- and for Aaron
- Pray
- Yahweh
- to Yahweh
- and from my people
- the people
- and they may sacrifice

ULT

⁸ And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and he said, "Pray to Yahweh that he may take away the frogs from me and from my people. And I will let the people go, and they may sacrifice to Yahweh."

UST

⁸ Then the king called Moses and Aaron and said, "Ask Yahweh to take these frogs away from me and my people. After that happens, I will allow your people to go to worship Yahweh."

Translation Words - UST

- the king
- Then...called
- Moses
- and Aaron
- Ask
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- and my people
- your people
- to worship

Exodus 8:9

Glorify yourself over me (ULT) Show how you are more glorious than me by telling me (UST)

Moses speaks with false humility here. He is ironically pointing out Pharaoh's powerlessness before Yahweh. Alternate translation: "You can choose" (See: [Irony](#))

for you and for your servants and for your people...from you and from your houses (ULT) for you and your officials and the rest of your peoples...to your houses (UST)

These lists mean "for everyone" and "from everywhere" (in Egypt). This makes clear that Moses will ask for a complete end of the plague. You should translate the list in such a way that it does not convey limitation to these specifics but is understood to imply universality. (See: [Merism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [to Pharaoh](#)
- [Glorify yourself](#)
- [shall I pray](#)
- [and for your servants](#)
- [and for your people](#)
- [to cause to cut off](#)
- [and from your houses](#)
- [in the river](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [to the king](#)
- [and stay in the Nile River](#)
- [Show how you are more glorious than me by telling me](#)
- [to pray...that](#)
- [and your officials](#)
- [and the rest of your peoples](#)
- [I will pray...stop coming](#)
- [to your houses](#)

ULT

⁹ And [Moses](#) said to [Pharaoh](#), "Glorify yourself over me: when shall I pray for you and for your servants and for your people, to cause to cut off the frogs from you and from your houses? They will be left in the river only."

UST

⁹ [Moses](#) said to the king, "Show how you are more glorious than me by telling me when to pray for you and your officials and the rest of your peoples. I will pray that the frogs stop coming to your houses and stay in the Nile River."

Exodus 8:10

so that you will know that there is no one like Yahweh, our God (ULT)

You will know that the God {named} Yahweh, {the one we worship, is the only true God, and that} there is no other God like him when (UST)

This knowledge is the goal of Yahweh's granting a respite from the frogs. In some languages you may need to place this at the end of [verse 11](#), after Moses says the frogs will leave. Use a natural way in your language for indicating purpose. (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

our God (ULT)

the God...named} Yahweh...the one we worship, is the only true God, and that...other God like him (UST)

Here, **our** refers to the Israelites' God, excluding Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Your language may require you to mark these forms. (See: [Exclusive and Inclusive 'We'](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [you will know](#)
- [is...like Yahweh](#)
- [our God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [will know](#)
- [the God {named} Yahweh, {the one we worship, is the only true God, and that...other God like him](#)
- [the God...named} Yahweh...the one we worship, is the only true God, and that...other God like him](#)

ULT

¹⁰ And he said, "Tomorrow." And he said, "Just as you say, so that [you will know](#) that there is no one [like Yahweh, our God](#)."

UST

¹⁰ The king replied, "{Pray for us} tomorrow." So Moses said, "I will do what you say. You [will know](#) that [the God {named} Yahweh, {the one we worship, is the only true God, and that}](#) there is no [other God like him](#) when

Exodus 8:11

**from you and from your houses and from your servants and from your people (ULT)
you, your officials, all the rest of your people and all your houses (UST)**

This list means “from everywhere and everyone” (in Egypt). This shows that the end of the plague will be as complete as was its extent. You should translate the list in such a way that it does not convey limitation to these specifics but is understood to imply universality. (See: [Merism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and from your houses](#)
- [and from your servants](#)
- [and from your people](#)
- [in the river](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [your officials](#)
- [all the rest of your people](#)
- [and all your houses](#)
- [in the Nile River](#)

ULT

¹¹ And the frogs will withdraw from you [and from your houses and from your servants and from your people](#). They will be left [in the river](#) only.”

UST

¹¹ the frogs leave you, [your officials, all the rest of your people and all your houses](#); when the only ones left are [in the Nile River](#).”

Exodus 8:12

he had set (ULT)

he had used to punish (UST)

Alternate translation: "Yahweh had set"

And Moses and Aaron went out (ULT)

Then Moses and Aaron left (UST)

A minor scene shift occurs here. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Moses
- and Aaron
- Pharaoh
- on Pharaoh
- And...cried out
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- Then Moses
- Moses
- and Aaron
- the king
- the king
- pleaded
- Yahweh

ULT

¹² And [Moses and Aaron](#) went out from being with [Pharaoh](#). And [Moses cried out](#) to [Yahweh](#) concerning the matter of the frogs that he had set [on Pharaoh](#).

UST

¹² Then [Moses and Aaron](#) left [the king](#). [Moses pleaded](#) with [Yahweh](#) about the frogs he had used to punish [the king](#).

Exodus 8:13

from the houses, from the courts, and from the fields (ULT)

in the houses, in their courtyards, and in their fields (UST)

This list means “from everywhere” (in Egypt). This makes clear that there was a complete end of the plague. You should translate the list in such a way that it does not convey limitation to these specifics but is understood to imply universality. (See: [Merism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [and...died off](#)
- [the houses](#)
- [the courts](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [As a result...died](#)
- [the houses](#)
- [in their courtyards](#)

ULT

¹³ And [Yahweh](#) did according to the word of [Moses](#): and the frogs [died off](#) from [the houses](#), from [the courts](#), and from the fields.

UST

¹³ [Yahweh](#) did just what [Moses](#) asked him to do. [As a result](#), all the frogs in [the houses](#), [in their courtyards](#), and in their fields [died](#).

Exodus 8:14

into many piles (ULT)

into big piles (UST)

Literally, the Hebrew says “piles piles.” Repetition is used in Hebrew to emphasize how many or how big the piles of frogs were.

Translation Words - ULT

- the land

Translation Words - UST

- the land

ULT

¹⁴ And they gathered them into many piles, and the land stank.

UST

¹⁴ The people gathered together all the dead frogs into big piles, and the land smelled very bad.

Exodus 8:15

and he caused his heart to be heavy (ULT) he made himself stubborn again (UST)

Pharaoh's stubborn attitude is spoken of as if he made his own **heart heavy**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in [Exodus 7:14](#), but note there that the state of Pharaoh's heart is reported, whereas here Pharaoh makes his own heart heavy. Alternate translation: "and Pharaoh determined to be defiant" (See: [Metaphor](#))

just as Yahweh had said (ULT) Just as Yahweh had said would happen (UST)

Alternate translation: "just as Yahweh had said Pharaoh would do"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Pharaoh](#)
- [his heart](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the king](#)
- [he made himself stubborn again](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

¹⁵ And [Pharaoh](#) saw that there was a respite, and he caused [his heart](#) to be heavy, and he did not listen to them, just as [Yahweh](#) had said.

UST

¹⁵ But when [the king](#) noticed that the frogs were gone, [he made himself stubborn again](#). Just as [Yahweh](#) had said would happen, the king did not do what Aaron and Moses told him.

Exodus 8:16

And Yahweh said (ULT) Then Yahweh said (UST)

A new scene begins here. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. This is the start of the third plague sequence. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

And Yahweh said to Moses, “Say to Aaron (ULT) Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Tell Aaron (UST)

Say to Aaron starts a direct quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with first-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation. However, it may be helpful to translate one of the parts as an indirect quotation so that you do not have to have two levels of quotations here. See the UST. Alternate translation: “And Yahweh told Moses to tell Aaron” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Stretch out your staff and strike (ULT) to strike...with his staff (UST)

This is one action or motion, but it is described with the two verbs that occur throughout this section of plague judgment.

your staff (ULT) with his staff (UST)

This refers to Aaron’s staff. See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

lice (ULT) gnats (UST)

We do not know exactly what this word means. It is probably a tiny (as in dust-particle size), biting insect. You should choose a different insect here than the one in the next plague (8:21-8:31). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- Aaron
- your staff
- the ground
- the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses

ULT

¹⁶ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground, and it will become lice in all the land of Egypt.’”

UST

¹⁶ Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Tell Aaron to strike the dusty ground with his staff so that all the dust all over Egypt will become gnats.”

- Aaron
- the dusty ground
- Egypt
- with his staff
- Egypt

Exodus 8:17

Again, this is one action or motion, but it is described with the two verbs, **stretched** and **struck**, that occur throughout this section of plague judgment. See how you translated it in the [previous verse](#).

his hand...with his staff (ULT) **with his staff (UST)**

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

lice...lice (ULT) **gnats. The gnats...gnats. The gnats (UST)**

Again, we do not know what this term refers to for certain, so see how you translated it in [8:16](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

on man (ULT) **covered the people (UST)**

Here **man** includes women and children. Alternate translation: “people” or “mankind” or “humans” See the UST. (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

All the dust of the ground...in all the land of Egypt (ULT) **the dust...all over Egypt (UST)**

This extraordinary statement with the repeated **all** is used to emphasize the extent and severity of the plague. If this would be unnatural in your language use a natural way to communicate that. (See: [Hyperbole](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Aaron](#)
- [his hand](#)
- [with his staff](#)
- [the ground](#)
- [the ground](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [on man](#)
- [and on beast](#)
- [Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Aaron](#)
- [the dusty ground](#)
- [the dust](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [with his staff](#)
- [with his staff](#)
- [Egypt](#)

ULT

17 And they did so, and [Aaron](#) stretched out [his hand with his staff](#) and he struck the dust of [the ground](#), and it became lice [on man and on beast](#). All the dust of [the ground](#) was lice in all [the land of Egypt](#).

UST

17 Moses and Aaron obeyed Yahweh. [Aaron](#) hit [the dusty ground with his staff](#), and all over [Egypt](#) the dust became gnats. The gnats [covered the people and the animals](#).

- covered the people
- and the animals

Exodus 8:18**the magicians...with their magic (ULT)**
The men who worked magic...to cause (UST)

See how you translated these in 7:11. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

lice...lice (ULT)
gnats...Gnats (UST)

See how you translated this term in 8:16. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

on man (ULT)
on the people (UST)

Here **man** includes women and children. Alternate translation: “people” or “mankind” or “humans” See UST. (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the magicians
- with their magic
- on man
- and beast

Translation Words - UST

- The men who worked magic
- to cause
- on the people
- and animals

ULT

¹⁸ And the magicians did so with their magic to bring out lice, but they were not able. And there were lice on man and beast.

UST

¹⁸ The men who worked magic tried to cause gnats to appear, but they could not do it. Gnats were on the people and animals.

Exodus 8:19

the magicians (ULT)**The magicians (UST)**

See how you translated this term in 7:11. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

It is the finger of God (ULT)**A god did this (UST)**

The words “finger of God” represent the power of God. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. Alternate translation: “This is the powerful work of God” (See: [Synecdoche](#))

And the heart of Pharaoh was strong (ULT)**But...the king continued to be stubborn (UST)**

Pharaoh’s stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were **strong**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person’s will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in [Exodus 7:13](#). This is a neutral statement (it does not say that anyone caused him to be stubborn as many others in this part of the narrative do). Alternate translation: “Pharaoh was still defiant” (See: [Metaphor](#))

to them (ULT)**Aaron and Moses (UST)**

Here, **them** may refer to the magicians or to Aaron and Moses. Alternate translation: “to the magicians’ warning” (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

just as Yahweh said (ULT)**just like Yahweh had said (UST)**

Some languages will need to place this before the thing that Yahweh predicted, as in the UST.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the magicians](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [God](#)
- [the heart of](#)
- [And...was strong](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The magicians](#)
- [the king](#)
- [the king](#)
- [A god did this](#)
- [But...continued to be stubborn](#)

ULT

¹⁹ And [the magicians](#) said to [Pharaoh](#), “It is the finger of [God](#).” And [the heart of Pharaoh was strong](#), and he did not listen to them, just as [Yahweh](#) said.

UST

¹⁹ [The magicians](#) said to [the king](#), “[A god did this!](#)” But just like [Yahweh](#) had said, [the king continued to be stubborn](#) and would not obey Aaron and Moses.

- But...continued to be stubborn
- Yahweh

Exodus 8:20

and station yourself before the face of Pharaoh (ULT)
Wait to meet the king (UST)

Alternate translation: “and present yourself to Pharaoh”

And Yahweh said (ULT)
Then Yahweh said (UST)

A new scene begins here. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. This is the beginning of the fourth plague sequence. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

before the face of Pharaoh (ULT)
Wait to meet...the king (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively means the presence of a person. (See: [Metonymy](#))

Behold (ULT)
as he comes (UST)

Behold is used to draw attention to important information that is next. In some languages and translation styles, it will make the most sense to omit this, as in the UST. Alternate translation: “Listen carefully”

Thus says Yahweh (ULT)
This is what Yahweh says to you (UST)

This phrase opens a direct quote that continues until the end of [verse 23](#). It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. However, you may also consider making the opening portion an indirect quote so that you do not have a quote inside of a quote for the next verses. Alternate translation: “that Yahweh says” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Thus says Yahweh (ULT)
This is what Yahweh says to you (UST)

This quotation formula is used to introduce commands from Yahweh. See 4:intro for more information.

Let...go (ULT)
Let...go (UST)

This phrase opens a second-level direct quotation which continues until the end of [verse 23](#), unless you made **thus says Yahweh** an indirect quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

ULT

²⁰ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Rise early in the morning and station yourself **before the face of Pharaoh**. Behold, he goes out **to the waters**. And you shall say to him, ‘Thus says Yahweh: “Let **my people** go, **and they will serve me**.”

UST

²⁰ Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Get up early tomorrow morning. **Wait to meet the king** as he comes **to the river** and tell him, ‘This is what Yahweh says to you: “Let **my people** go **in order that they may worship me**.”

and they will serve me (ULT) in order that they may worship me (UST)

This is the purpose of the people being let go. Use a natural way in your language for indicating purpose. Alternate translation: "so they can serve me" (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- Moses
- before the face of
- Pharaoh
- to the waters
- my people
- and they will serve me

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- Moses
- Wait to meet
- the king
- to the river
- my people
- in order that they may worship me

Exodus 8:21

behold me (ULT) watch out (UST)

The expression **behold me!** is used to draw attention to important information that is next. Alternate translation: "Listen carefully"

the swarm...the swarm (ULT) swarms of flies...flies (UST)

Here, **the swarm** is a collective singular noun that refers to a great number of flying, biting insects traveling in a group. If your language does not use singular nouns in that way, you can use a different expression. Alternate translation: "swarms of flies" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

the swarm...the swarm (ULT) swarms of flies...flies (UST)

Here, **the swarm** probably refers to the common large flies that bother humans and livestock. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

at you and at your servants and at your people and into your houses...the houses of Egypt...and even the ground (ULT) which will cover you, your slaves, the rest of your people, and your houses... All the Egyptian's houses...They will even cover the ground (UST)

This long list means "everywhere in Egypt." It is presented in this way for rhetorical effect, that is, to convince Pharaoh of how bad this plague will be so he will obey. You should translate the list in such a way that the flies' location is not limited to these specific places but is understood to imply universality. (See: [Merism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- do...immediately send...out
- I am about to send
- my people
- and at your people
- and at your servants
- and into your houses
- the houses of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- my people
- the rest of your people
- do...let...go immediately
- I will shortly send
- your slaves
- and your houses

ULT

²¹ Surely if you do not **immediately send my people out**, behold me! **I am about to send** the swarm at you **and at your servants and at your people and into your houses**. **And the houses of Egypt** will be full of the swarm, and even the ground which they are on.

UST

²¹ If you do not let **my people go immediately**, watch out! Be sure that **I will shortly send** swarms of flies which will cover you, **your slaves, the rest of your people, and your houses**. **All the Egyptian's houses** will be full of flies. They will even cover the ground.

- All the Egyptian's houses
- All the Egyptian's houses

Exodus 8:22

so that the swarm will not be there (ULT)
There will be no swarms of flies there (UST)

This is the goal of Yahweh treating the land of Goshen differently. Alternate translation: “by keeping the swarm from there” (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

the swarm (ULT)
swarms of flies (UST)

This is a collective singular noun that refers to a great number of swarming, biting insects. See how you translated this in [8:21](#). Alternate translation: “swarms of flies” (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

the swarm (ULT)
swarms of flies (UST)

These are probably the common large flies that bother humans and livestock. See how you translated this in [8:21](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

in order that you may know that I am Yahweh in the middle of the land (ULT)
In that way, you will know that I, Yahweh, am here in this land (UST)

This is the goal of treating the Israelites differently. In some languages you may need to put this phrase the beginning of the verse. Use a natural way in your language for indicating purpose. (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

I am Yahweh in the middle of the land (ULT)
I, Yahweh, am here in this land (UST)

Here, **am** could be connecting **I** and **Yahweh** or it could be connecting **I, Yahweh** and **in the middle of the land**. Alternate translation: “I, Yahweh, am in the middle of the land”

Translation Words - ULT

- [in...day](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [the land](#)
- [Goshen](#)
- [my people](#)
- [you may know](#)
- [I am Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [But when](#)
- [the region of Goshen](#)
- [the region of Goshen](#)
- [this land](#)

ULT

²² And in that [day](#), I will distinguish [the land of Goshen](#), on which [my people](#) dwell, so that the swarm will not be there, in order that [you may know](#) that [I am Yahweh](#) in the middle of [the land](#).

UST

²² [But when](#) that happens, I will treat [the region of Goshen](#) differently, because [my people](#) live there. There will be no swarms of flies there. In that way, [you will know](#) that [I, Yahweh](#), am here in [this land](#).

- my people
- you will know
- I, Yahweh

Exodus 8:23

redemption (ULT) differently (UST)

This is a noun derived from a verb meaning “to buy back.” Very broadly, it can mean “to save or rescue.” If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **redemption**, you can express the same idea in another way. See the next note regarding textual variants for more information. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

redemption (ULT) differently (UST)

Many translations follow the Septuagint here, which uses the word “division.” A minor change to the Hebrew would also produce the word translated “treat differently” in the [previous verse](#). Alternate translation: “a division” (See: [Textual Variants](#))

my people (ULT) my people (UST)

Yahweh’s people, that is, the Israelites. Alternate translation: “the Israelites”

your people (ULT) your people (UST)

Pharaoh’s people, that is, the Egyptians. Alternate translation: “the Egyptians”

This sign will happen tomorrow (ULT) I will prove how powerful I am tomorrow (UST)

After this phrase, the three levels of direct quotations of Yahweh that started in [8:20](#) ends. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with closing first-level, second-level, and third-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the end of quotations. You may not have three levels if you made any level an indirect quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [my people](#)
- [your people](#)
- [sign](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [my people](#)
- [your people](#)
- [I will prove how powerful I am](#)

ULT

²³ And I will put redemption between [my people](#) and between [your people](#). This [sign](#) will happen tomorrow.””

UST

²³ I will treat [my people](#) and [your people](#) differently. [I will prove how powerful I am](#) tomorrow!””

Exodus 8:24

And Yahweh did so (ULT)
In the morning, Moses warned the king, but he did not listen.} So Yahweh did what he said he would do (UST)

The UST supplies a brief sentence filling in the gap between Yahweh's command to Moses and the onset of the plague. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly to make the progression of events clear. Alternate translation: "Moses obeyed the instructions Yahweh gave him, and Pharaoh responded as Yahweh had said he would. And Yahweh did so" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

And Yahweh did so (ULT)
In the morning, Moses warned the king, but he did not listen.} So Yahweh did what he said he would do (UST)

There is a minor scene change here. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

a...swarm (ULT)
swarms of flies (UST)

There are probably the common large flies that bother humans and livestock. See how you translated this in [8:21](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and...came (ULT)
He sent (UST)

Some languages may need to translate this as "going" rather than "coming." Alternate translation: "and ... went" (See: [Go and Come](#))

to the house of Pharaoh and the houses of his servants (ULT)
into the king's palace and into his officials' houses (UST)

This means "to everyone everywhere" (in Egypt), as made explicit in the next statement. This makes clear that the insects were throughout the land. You should translate this in such a way that it does not convey limitation to these specifics but is understood to imply universality. (See: [Merism](#))

The land was ruined from the face of the swarm (ULT)
The flies ruined the country (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can express the idea in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "The swarms of flies devastated the land" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

ULT

²⁴ And Yahweh did so, and a heavy swarm came to the house of Pharaoh and the houses of his servants and all the land of Egypt. The land was ruined from the face of the swarm.

UST

²⁴ {In the morning, Moses warned the king, but he did not listen.} So Yahweh did what he said he would do. He sent great swarms of flies into the king's palace and into his officials' houses. They were everywhere in Egypt. The flies ruined the country.

from the face of the swarm (ULT) The flies (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of the insects. Alternate translation: “because the insects were everywhere” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- to the house of
- Pharaoh
- and the houses of
- his servants
- the land of
- The land
- Egypt
- was ruined

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- into the king's palace
- into the king's palace
- and into his officials' houses
- and into his officials' houses
- They were everywhere in Egypt
- They were everywhere in Egypt
- the country
- ruined

Exodus 8:25

And...called (ULT)

Then...summoned (UST)

This happened during the plague. (See: [Connect — Simultaneous Time Relationship](#))

to your God (ULT)

your god (UST)

Here, **your** is plural. It could refer either to Moses and Aaron or to the Israelites. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a dual form (if you have one) if your team decides it means Moses and Aaron; otherwise use a plural form. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

ULT

²⁵ And Pharaoh called to Moses and to Aaron and said, “Go, sacrifice to your God in the land.”

UST

²⁵ Then the king summoned Moses and Aaron and said, “Just go worship your god here in Egypt!”

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- And...called
- Moses
- and to Aaron
- sacrifice
- to your God
- in the land

Translation Words - UST

- the king
- Then...summoned
- Moses
- and Aaron
- worship
- your god
- here in Egypt

Exodus 8:26

**an abomination of the Egyptians...an
abomination of the...Egyptians (ULT)
that are very offensive to the Egyptians...
that...the Egyptians...hate passionately (UST)**

We do not know what about their sacrificing was an **abomination** to the Egyptians. The same term is used in Genesis 43:32 and 46:34 to describe the Egyptians' feelings about eating with Hebrews and about the Hebrew profession of shepherding, respectively. Translators should attempt to convey the strong negative feelings that would be provoked in the Egyptians without speculating as to the cause.

**we will sacrifice...our God...we would
sacrifice...would they...stone us (ULT)
we will offer sacrifices...the God we worship...
if we offer sacrifices...they will kill us by
throwing stones at us (UST)**

Here, **we**, **our**, and **us** should all be translated as exclusive (if your language makes that distinction). Pharaoh and the Egyptians are not included. (See: [Exclusive and Inclusive 'We'](#))

**and would they not stone us (ULT)
they will kill us by throwing stones at us (UST)**

Moses asks this question to show Pharaoh that the Egyptians would not allow the Israelites to worship Yahweh by making a sacrifice repugnant to them. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "they will certainly stone us!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

**before their eyes (ULT)
right in front of them (UST)**

The express **before their eyes** is a figurative way of saying "where they can see." If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "in their sight" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [we will sacrifice](#)
- [we would sacrifice](#)
- [an abomination of the](#)
- [an abomination of the](#)
- [Egyptians](#)
- [Egyptians](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [our God](#)

ULT

²⁶ And [Moses](#) said, "It would not be right to do so, because [we will sacrifice an abomination of the Egyptians to Yahweh our God](#). Look, [we would sacrifice an abomination of the Egyptians](#) before their eyes, and [would they not stone us](#)?"

UST

²⁶ But [Moses](#) replied, "It would not be right for us to do that, because [we will offer sacrifices to Yahweh, the God we worship, that are very offensive to the Egyptians](#). Look, it is certain that [if we offer sacrifices](#) right in front of them that [the Egyptians hate passionately, they will kill us by throwing stones at us!](#)"

- would they...stone us

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- we will offer sacrifices
- if we offer sacrifices
- to Yahweh
- the God we worship
- that are very offensive
- that...hate passionately
- to the Egyptians
- the Egyptians
- they will kill us by throwing stones at us

Exodus 8:27

We must travel...and we will sacrifice...our God...to us (ULT)

We need...we will offer sacrifices...the God we worship...us (UST)

Here, **we**, **our**, and **us** should all be translated as exclusive (if your language makes that distinction). Pharaoh and his people are not included. (See: [Exclusive and Inclusive 'We'](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [days](#)
- [into the wilderness](#)
- [and we will sacrifice](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [our God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [days](#)
- [into the wilderness. There](#)
- [we will offer sacrifices](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [the God we worship](#)

ULT

²⁷ We must travel a journey of three [days into the wilderness](#), and we will [sacrifice to Yahweh our God](#), just as he is saying to us."

UST

²⁷ We need to travel for three [days into the wilderness](#). There we will offer [sacrifices to Yahweh, the God we worship](#), just as he commands us."

Exodus 8:28

you...your God...you...very far (ULT)
**your people go...the god you worship...you...
 very far (UST)**

If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

you (ULT)
your people go (UST)

Alternate translation: “the Israelites”

certainly...you...very far (ULT)
must...you...very far (UST)

In Hebrew, **far** is repeated to emphasize (with **not**) that they are absolutely not to go too far. If your language does not use repeating words like this, express the emphasis in another way. (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Pharaoh](#)
- [and sacrifice](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [your God](#)
- [in the wilderness](#)
- [Pray](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the king](#)
- [to offer sacrifices](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [the god you worship](#)
- [in the desert](#)
- [Now pray](#)

ULT

²⁸ And [Pharaoh](#) said, “I will let you go [and sacrifice to Yahweh your God in the wilderness](#); only you may certainly not go very far. [Pray](#) for me.”

UST

²⁸ So [the king](#) said, “I will let your people go [to offer sacrifices to Yahweh, the god you worship, in the desert](#). But you must not go very far. [Now pray](#) for me!”

Exodus 8:29

Behold (ULT) Listen to me (UST)

Behold is a term meant to focus the attention of the listener on what the speaker is about to say. If there is not a good way to translate this term in your language, this term can be omitted from the translation. Alternate translation: "Know this"

the swarm (ULT) the swarms of flies (UST)

These are probably the common large flies that bother humans and livestock. See how you translated this in 8:21 (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

from Pharaoh...Pharaoh (ULT) you...do...again (UST)

Moses may be using the third person to refer to Pharaoh to show respect, because the king appears to be relenting. If use of the third person is not a way of showing respect in your culture or is not a valid way of addressing an individual at all, you may need to change the form. Alternate translation: "from you ... you" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people (ULT) you, your slaves, and the rest of your people (UST)

This list means "from everywhere and everyone" (in Egypt). This shows that the end of the plague will be as complete as its extent. You should translate the list in such a way that it does not convey limitation to these specifics but is understood to imply universality. (See: [Merism](#))

may Pharaoh not continue to deceive in order to fail to let the people go (ULT)

do not lie to us again by refusing to let our people go (UST)

If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement. Alternate translation: "you must begin to deal truthfully with us and let our people go" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

Only may Pharaoh not continue to deceive (ULT) But do not lie to us again (UST)

Alternate translation: "But you must not deceive us" or "But you must not lie to us"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [And I shall pray](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)

ULT

²⁹ And [Moses](#) said, "Behold, I am about to go out from with you. [And I shall pray](#) to [Yahweh](#), and he will withdraw the swarm [from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people](#) tomorrow. Only may [Pharaoh](#) not continue to deceive in order to fail to let [the people](#) go to [sacrifice to Yahweh.](#)"

UST

²⁹ [Moses](#) said {to the king}, "Listen to me! After I leave you, [I will pray](#) to [Yahweh](#), [asking](#) that he would cause the swarms of flies to leave [you, your slaves, and the rest of your people](#) tomorrow. But do not lie to us [again](#) by refusing to let [our people](#) go to [offer sacrifices to Yahweh!](#)"

- from Pharaoh
- Pharaoh
- from his servants
- and from his people
- the people
- to sacrifice

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- I will pray...asking
- Yahweh
- to Yahweh
- you
- do...again
- your slaves
- and the rest of your people
- our people
- to offer sacrifices

Exodus 8:30

And Moses went out (ULT)

Then Moses left (UST)

There is a minor scene shift here. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [and prayed](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the king](#)
- [and prayed](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

³⁰ And [Moses](#) went out from with [Pharaoh](#) and [prayed](#) to [Yahweh](#).

UST

³⁰ Then [Moses](#) left [the king](#) and [prayed](#) to [Yahweh](#).

Exodus 8:31

the swarm (ULT)

the swarms of flies (UST)

These are probably the common large flies that bother humans and livestock. See how you translated this in 8:21 (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people (ULT)

from around the king, his slaves, and the rest of his people (UST)

This list means “from everyone and everywhere” (in Egypt). This makes clear that there was a complete end of the plague. You should translate the list in such a way that it does not convey limitation to these specifics but is understood to imply universality. (See: [Merism](#))

Not one remained (ULT)

No flies remained (UST)

This extreme statement emphasizes how thoroughly Yahweh removed the insects from the land. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression from your language that emphasizes thoroughness or complete lack of the swarm. Alternate translation: “There was not a single one of these insects left in the whole land” (See: [Hyperbole](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [from Pharaoh](#)
- [from his servants](#)
- [and from his people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [from around the king](#)
- [his slaves](#)
- [and the rest of his people](#)

ULT

³¹ And [Yahweh](#) did according to the word of [Moses](#), and he withdrew the swarm [from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people](#). Not one remained.

UST

³¹ [Yahweh](#) did what [Moses](#) asked. He got rid of the swarms of flies [from around the king, his slaves, and the rest of his people](#). No flies remained.

Exodus 8:32

And Pharaoh caused his heart to be heavy (ULT)

But the king was stubborn (UST)

Pharaoh's stubborn attitude is spoken of as if he made his own **heart heavy**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in [8:15](#). Alternate translation: "Pharaoh determined to be defiant" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Pharaoh](#)
- [his heart](#)
- [the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [But the king](#)
- [was stubborn](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

ULT

³² And [Pharaoh](#) caused [his heart](#) to be heavy at this time also, and he did not let [the people](#) go.

UST

³² [But the king was stubborn](#) this time also, and he did not allow [the Israelites](#) to go.

Exodus 9

Exodus 9 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- v. 1-7: Fifth plague (first that does not affect Israelites): disease kills livestock
- v. 8-12: Sixth plague: boils
- v. 13-35: Seventh plague: hail
- v. 27-35: Pharaoh seems to repent, but it does not last

Possible translation difficulties in this chapter

- animals are affected in both the fifth and seventh plagues, in the fifth, the word is specifically related to domestic animals (livestock) while the word used in the seventh is more general

Exodus 9:1

And Yahweh said (ULT) Then Yahweh said (UST)

A new scene begins here. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. This is the beginning of the fifth plague sequence. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

to Moses (ULT) to Moses (UST)

After this phrase, a direct quote begins that continues to the end of [9:4](#) and contains two additional levels of quotes. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

and speak to him: 'Thus says Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews (ULT) and say to him, 'This is what Yahweh, the God we Hebrews worship, says (UST)

You may want to translate the second-level quotation beginning with **Thus says Yahweh** as an indirect quotation in order to reduce the levels of quotations in this passage. Alternative translation: "and say to him that Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, says" (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

Yahweh...Thus says (ULT) Yahweh...This is what...says (UST)

This quotation formula is used to introduce commands from Yahweh. See [4:intro](#) for more information.

my people (ULT) my people (UST)

Alternate translation: "the Israelites"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh \(2\)](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [the God of](#)
- [the Hebrews](#)
- [my people](#)
- [and they shall serve me](#)

ULT

¹ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Go in to [Pharaoh](#) and speak to him: 'Thus says [Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews](#): "Let [my people](#) go, and they shall serve me."

UST

¹ Then [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Go to [the king](#) and say to him, 'This is what [Yahweh, the God we Hebrews worship](#), says: "Let [my people](#) go in order that [they may worship me](#)."

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Yahweh (2)
- Moses
- the king
- the God
- we Hebrews worship
- my people
- in order that they may worship me

Exodus 9:2

Surely if you are unwilling to let go, but are still holding on to them (ULT)

Otherwise, if you refuse to free them but continue to keep them {as your slaves (UST)}

These two phrases mean basically the same thing. If saying the same thing twice might be confusing for your readers, you can combine the phrases into one. Alternate translation: "If you continue refusing to let them go" (See: [Parallelism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- are...holding on

Translation Words - UST

- to keep...as your slaves

ULT

² Surely if you are unwilling to let go, but are still [holding on](#) to them,

UST

² Otherwise, if you refuse to free them but continue [to keep](#) them {[as your slaves](#)},

Exodus 9:3

behold (ULT)**I warn you that (UST)**

The word **behold** is used to draw attention to surprising information that follows. Alternate translation: “look out”

The hand of Yahweh is about to be on your livestock (ULT)**I will soon powerfully punish you by sending... on all your domesticated animals (UST)**

Here, **hand** represents Yahweh’s power to afflict their animals with disease. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “Then the power of Yahweh will afflict your livestock” (See: [Metonymy](#))

The hand of Yahweh (ULT)**I will soon powerfully punish you by sending (UST)**

This is part of the reported speech that Yahweh wants Moses to say to Pharaoh. Therefore, you could change the third person **the hand of Yahweh** to first person if it would be clearer in your language. Alternate translation: “My hand” (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

on your livestock (ULT)**on all your domesticated animals (UST)**

While the word **your** here is not plural, the next verse shows that it refers to all the people of Egypt who owned cattle. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, you may want to use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the cattle, and on the flock (ULT)**on your horses, on your donkeys, on your camels, on your cattle, and on your flocks of sheep and goats (UST)**

This long list is meant to reinforce the universal effects of the coming plague. It is presented in this way for rhetorical effect, that is, to convince Pharaoh of how bad this plague will be so he will obey. You should translate the list in such a way that it is not limiting but is understood to imply universality. (See: [Merism](#))

on the cattle...and on the flock (ULT)**on your cattle...and on your flocks of sheep and goats (UST)**

These (**cattle** and **flock**) are collective singular nouns which refer to groups of animals. If your language does not use singular nouns in that way, you can use a different expression. Alternate translation: “on your bulls and cows and on your sheep and goats” (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

ULT

³ behold! The hand of Yahweh is about to be on your livestock which are in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the cattle, and on the flock—an exceedingly heavy plague.

UST

³ I warn you that I will soon powerfully punish you by sending a terrible disease on all your domesticated animals to make them sick and die—on your horses, on your donkeys, on your camels, on your cattle, and on your flocks of sheep and goats.

heavy (ULT) terrible (UST)

Here the plague is spoken of as if it weighed a lot. This means it would be very bad. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "severe" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- The hand of
- Yahweh
- on your livestock
- on the horses
- on the donkeys
- on the camels
- on the cattle
- and on the flock
- an...plague

Translation Words - UST

- I will soon powerfully punish you by sending
- I will soon powerfully punish you by sending
- a...disease...to make them sick and die
- on all your domesticated animals
- on your horses
- on your donkeys
- on your camels
- on your cattle
- and on your flocks of sheep and goats

Exodus 9:4

Yahweh (ULT) I, Yahweh (UST)

This is part of the reported speech that Yahweh wants Moses to say to Pharaoh. Therefore, you could change the third person **Yahweh** to first person if it would be clearer in your language. You should do the same as you did in the [previous verse](#). Alternate translation: "I" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Israel (ULT) the Israelites (UST)

Here, **Israel** refers to the Israelites. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "the Israelite people" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Israel (ULT) the Israelites (UST)

Here, **Israel** is used as a collective singular noun. If your language would not refer to a group of people in this way, you may need to translate it as plural. Alternate translation: "the Israelite people" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

the livestock of Egypt (ULT) the Egyptians (UST)

Here, **Egypt** refers to the Egyptians. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "the livestock of the Egyptian people" (See: [Metonymy](#))

thing (ULT) domesticated animals (UST)

Alternate translation: "animal"

from any of the sons of Israel (ULT) of the Israelites (UST)

Alternate translation: "which belongs to any of the sons of Israel"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [the livestock of](#)
- [the livestock of \(2\)](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [will die](#)
- [the sons of](#)

ULT

⁴ And [Yahweh](#) will distinguish between [the livestock of Israel](#) and between [the livestock of Egypt](#). And no thing [will die](#) from any of [the sons of Israel](#).^u

UST

⁴ But I, [Yahweh](#), will treat [the Israelites' domesticated animals](#) differently than [the Egyptians'](#). None [of the Israelites'](#) domesticated animals [will die](#).^u

Translation Words - UST

- I, Yahweh
- the Israelites
- of the Israelites
- domesticated animals
- the Egyptians (2)
- the Egyptians
- of the Israelites
- will die

Exodus 9:5

And Yahweh set an appointment (ULT) Yahweh specified when he would do this (UST)

Alternate translation: "And Yahweh made an appointed time"

saying (ULT) He said (UST)

This marks the beginning of a direct quotation. It can be omitted in translation if your language does not use a similar form. However, in this sentence it is the only verb related to speech, so you may need to translate it similarly to the way the UST does.

Yahweh (ULT) I (UST)

Yahweh is speaking here. Therefore, you could change the third person **Yahweh** to first person if it would be clearer in your language. Alternate translation: "I, Yahweh," (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [an appointment](#)
- [in the land](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [I](#)
- [when](#)
- [to Egypt](#)

ULT

⁵ And [Yahweh](#) set [an appointment](#), saying, "Tomorrow [Yahweh](#) will do this thing [in the land](#)."

UST

⁵ [Yahweh](#) specified [when](#) he would do this. He said, "Tomorrow [I](#) will do [to Egypt](#) what I threatened."

Exodus 9:6

And Yahweh did (ULT) Yahweh sent a disease as he had said he would (UST)

It is implied that Moses went and spoke to Pharaoh as directed. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "Moses did as Yahweh had commanded. And Yahweh did" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

all of the livestock of (ULT) all of the...domesticated animals (UST)

This is exaggerated to emphasize the seriousness of the event. There were still some animals alive that were afflicted by later plagues. However, it may be best to translate this with the word "all." (See: [Hyperbole](#))

Egypt (ULT) Egyptians (UST)

Here, **Egypt** refers to the Egyptians. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "the Egyptian peoples" (See: [Metonymy](#))

But from the livestock of the sons of Israel not one died (ULT) but none of the Israelites' domesticated animals died (UST)

Here the author uses a figure of speech that expresses a strong positive meaning by using a negative word together with a word that is the opposite of the intended meaning. If this is confusing in your language, you can express the meaning positively. Alternate translation: "But every single one of the Israelites' livestock lived" (See: [Litotes](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- the livestock of
- But from the livestock of
- Egypt
- and...died
- died
- the sons of
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh sent a disease as he had said he would
- Egyptians
- the...domesticated animals
- but...domesticated animals
- and...died
- died

ULT

⁶ And Yahweh did this thing the next day, and all of the livestock of Egypt died. But from the livestock of the sons of Israel not one died.

UST

⁶ The next day Yahweh sent a disease as he had said he would and all of the Egyptians' domesticated animals died, but none of the Israelites' domesticated animals died.

- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

Exodus 9:7

and, behold (ULT)
to look at what happened}, and they were surprised to see that (UST)

Again, **behold** is used to draw attention to surprising information that follows. Alternate translation: “and listen”

not even one of the livestock of Israel had died (ULT)
none of the Israelites’ animals had died (UST)

Here the author uses a figure of speech that expresses a strong positive meaning by using a negative word together with a word that is the opposite of the intended meaning. If this is confusing in your language, you can express the meaning positively. Alternate translation: “every single one of the Israelites’ livestock was alive” (See: [Litotes](#))

of Israel (ULT)
Israelites (UST)

Here, **Israel** refers to the Israelites. Alternate translation: “of the Israelites” (See: [Metonymy](#))

of Israel (ULT)
Israelites (UST)

Here, **Israel** is a collective singular noun. If your language would not refer to a group of people in this way, you may need to translate it as plural. Alternate translation: “the Israelites” (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

But the heart of Pharaoh was heavy (ULT)
But after they told that to the king,} he continued to be stubborn (UST)

Pharaoh’s stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were **heavy**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person’s will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. This is a neutral statement (it does not say that anyone caused him to be stubborn as many others in this part of the narrative do). See how you translated this in [Exodus 7:14](#). Alternate translation: “But Pharaoh was defiant” (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Pharaoh](#)
- [the...Pharaoh](#) (2)
- [And...sent](#)
- [of the livestock](#)
- [of Israel](#)
- [had died](#)
- [heart of](#)
- [the people](#)

ULT

⁷ And [Pharaoh sent](#), and, behold, not even one [of the livestock of Israel had died](#). But the [heart of Pharaoh](#) was heavy, and he did not let [the people](#) go.

UST

⁷ [The king sent](#) {[men](#) to look at what happened}, and they were surprised to see that none [of the Israelites’ animals had died](#). {[But after they told that to the king,](#)} [he continued to be stubborn](#), and he did not let [the Israelites](#) go.

Translation Words - UST

- The king
- he (2)
- sent {men
- of the...animals
- Israelites
- had died
- But after they told that to the king...continued to be stubborn
- the Israelites

Exodus 9:8

And Yahweh said (ULT) Then Yahweh said (UST)

A new scene begins here. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. This is the start of the sixth plague scene. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

to you...both your hands of (ULT) Take...a few handfuls of (UST)

You and **your** refer to both Moses and Aaron. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use dual form (if you have one) or plural forms (if not) here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

Take to you a fullness of both your hands of (ULT) Take a few handfuls of (UST)

Alternate translation: “Each of you fill both your hands with”

ash of a furnace (ULT) ashes from an oven (UST)

Alternate translation: “ash from a furnace” or “ash produced by a furnace”

ash of (ULT) ashes (UST)

Here, **ash** is singular. For some languages you may need to make it plural as in the UST. (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

toward heaven (ULT) into the air (UST)

Alternate translation: “toward the sky”

before the eyes of Pharaoh (ULT) in front of the king (UST)

The phrase **before the eyes of Pharaoh** means in his sight. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “in the sight of Pharaoh” or “so Pharaoh sees it” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

⁸ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#) and to [Aaron](#), “Take to you a fullness of both your hands of [ash of a furnace](#). And [Moses](#) shall sprinkle it [toward heaven](#) before the eyes of [Pharaoh](#).”

UST

⁸ Then [Yahweh](#) said to [Aaron](#) and [Moses](#), “Take a few handfuls of [ashes from an oven](#). [Moses](#) should throw them up [into the air](#) in front of [the king](#).”

- Aaron
- ash of
- a furnace
- toward heaven
- the...Pharaoh

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Aaron
- Moses
- Moses
- ashes
- from an oven
- into the air
- the king

Exodus 9:9

boils, bursting blisters (ULT) sores on the skin which turn red and burst open (UST)

To have **boils** means to have a condition where the skin is red, hot, and painful, the skin breaks open, and puss and blood come out. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

man (ULT) people (UST)

Here, **man** includes women and children. Alternate translation: “people” or “mankind” or “humans” See UST. (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the land of
- the land of
- Egypt
- Egypt
- man
- beast

Translation Words - UST

- all over the country of Egypt
- the land
- all over the country of Egypt
- the land
- people
- animals

ULT

⁹ And it will become powder over all [the land of Egypt](#). And it will become boils, bursting blisters, on [man](#) and on [beast](#) in all [the land of Egypt](#).”

UST

⁹ The ashes will spread [all over the country of Egypt](#), because they are fine dust. Everywhere in [the land](#), the ashes will cause sores on the skin which turn red and burst open on both [people](#) and [animals](#).”

Exodus 9:10

ash of (ULT) some ashes (UST)

Here, **ash** is singular. For some languages you may need to make it plural as in the UST. See how you translated this in the [previous verse](#). (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

ash of...a furnace (ULT) some ashes...from an oven (UST)

Alternate translation: “ash from a furnace” or “ash produced by a furnace” See how you translated this in the [previous verse](#).

and they stood before the face of Pharaoh (ULT) and stood in front of the king (UST)

Here, **before the face of Pharaoh** means in Pharaoh’s presence. Alternate translation: “and stood in Pharaoh’s presence” or “and stood in the presence of Pharaoh” See how you translated a similar statement in the [previous verse](#). (See: [Metonymy](#))

toward the heavens (ULT) up into the air (UST)

Alternate translation: “toward the sky” See how you translated this in the [previous verse](#).

boils, bursting blisters (ULT) on...and...sores...the skin that turned red...burst open (UST)

To have **boils** means to have a condition where the skin is red, hot, and painful, the skin breaks open, and puss and blood come out. See how you translated this in the [previous verse](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

on man (ULT) As the ashes landed...both the Egyptian people...they...on (UST)

Here, **man** includes women and children. See how you translated this in the [previous verse](#). (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- ash of
- a furnace
- Pharaoh
- Moses
- toward the heavens
- on man
- and on beast

ULT

¹⁰ And they took **ash of a furnace**, and they stood before the face of **Pharaoh**. And **Moses** sprinkled it **toward the heavens**, and it became boils, bursting blisters, **on man and on beast**.

UST

¹⁰ So they took **some ashes from an oven** and stood in front of **the king**. **Moses** threw the ashes **up into the air**. **As the ashes landed on both the Egyptian people and their animals, they** caused sores **on** the skin that turned red **and** burst open.

Translation Words - UST

- some ashes
- from an oven
- the king
- Moses
- up into the air
- As the ashes landed...both the Egyptian people...they...on
- their animals...and

Exodus 9:11

the magicians...on the magicians (ULT)
the men who worked magic...the men who worked magic (UST)

See how you translated **magicians** in 7:11.

to stand before the face of Moses (ULT)
challenge Moses (UST)

Here, **before the face of** means in Moses' presence. Alternate translation: "to stand in Moses' presence" (See: [Metonymy](#))

because of the face of the boils (ULT)
Because skin sores (UST)

Here, **the face of** means the presence of or perhaps pain from the boils. Alternate translation: "because of the boils" (See: [Metonymy](#))

the boils...boils (ULT)
skin sores...skin sores (UST)

To have **boils** means to have a condition where the skin is red, hot, and painful, the skin breaks open, and puss and blood come out. See how you translated this in 9:9. However, this time only **boils** is used, without the description ("bursting blisters") that is in the previous two verses. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the magicians](#)
- [on the magicians](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the men who worked magic](#)
- [the men who worked magic](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

¹¹ And [the magicians](#) were not able to stand before the face of [Moses](#), because of the face of the boils, because boils were [on the magicians](#) and on all of [Egypt](#).

UST

¹¹ Because skin sores covered [the men who worked magic](#) (along with all the rest of [the Egyptians](#)), they could not challenge [Moses](#).

Exodus 9:12

But Yahweh strengthened the heart of Pharaoh (ULT)

But Yahweh caused the king to continue to be stubborn (UST)

This phrase means that it was God who made him stubborn. His stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were **strong**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in 4:21. Alternate translation: "But Yahweh caused Pharaoh to be stubborn" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [But...strengthened](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the heart of](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [But...caused...to continue to be stubborn](#)
- [But...caused...to continue to be stubborn](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the king](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

¹² [But Yahweh strengthened the heart of Pharaoh](#), and he did not listen to them, just as [Yahweh](#) had said to [Moses](#).

UST

¹² [But Yahweh caused the king to continue to be stubborn](#). He did not obey Moses and Aaron, just as [Yahweh](#) had told [Moses](#) would happen.

Exodus 9:13

And Yahweh said to Moses (ULT) Then Yahweh said to Moses (UST)

A new scene begins here. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. This is the beginning of the seventh plague sequence. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

and stand before the face of Pharaoh (ULT) Go and stand in front of the king (UST)

Here, **before the face of** means in Pharaoh's presence. Alternate translation: "and stand in Pharaoh's presence" (See: [Metonymy](#))

and say to him, 'Thus says Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews (ULT) and tell him that Yahweh God, the one whom the Hebrew people worship, says this (UST)

After **and say to him**, a second-level quote begins which continues until the end of [9:19](#). It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening second-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation within a quotation. However, it may be useful to translate this short quote frame as an indirect quotation, as the UST does. (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Yahweh...Thus says (ULT) Yahweh...says this (UST)

This quotation formula is used to introduce commands from Yahweh. See [4:intro](#) for more information.

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh \(2\)](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [the God of](#)
- [the Hebrews](#)
- [my people](#)
- [and they shall serve me](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh \(2\)](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the king](#)
- [God, the one whom](#)
- [the Hebrew people worship](#)
- [my people](#)

ULT

¹³ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Rise early in the morning, and stand before the face of [Pharaoh](#), and say to him, 'Thus says [Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews](#): "Let my people go, and they shall serve me.

UST

¹³ Then [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Get up early tomorrow morning. Go and stand in front of [the king](#) and tell him that [Yahweh God, the one whom the Hebrew people worship](#), says this: 'Let my people go in order that they may worship me {in the wilderness}.

- in order that they may worship me {in the wilderness

Exodus 9:14

For (ULT)

If you do not, then (UST)

Here it is implied that Pharaoh will again not let God's people go. **For** is expressing the result, that is, God's response to Pharaoh's disobedience to the command immediately preceding. You may need to insert this as in the UST or choose a contrastive conjunction. Alternate translation: "Otherwise," (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

I am about to send all my plagues to your heart (ULT)

I am planning terrible disasters that will not only make...very sad but also you yourself (UST)

Here, **to your heart** is a synecdoche that means that even Pharaoh will be hurt by the plagues. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. Alternate translation: "I am about to send all my plagues against you personally" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

ULT

¹⁴ For this [time](#) I am about to send all [my plagues](#) to [your heart](#), and on your [servants](#), and on your [people](#), in order that [you may know](#) that there is nothing like me in all [the earth](#).

UST

¹⁴ If you do not, then this [time](#) I am [planning terrible disasters](#) that will not only make your officials and the rest of your people very sad but also you [yourself](#), in order that [you might know](#) that there is no god like me anywhere in [the world](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [time](#)
- [am about to send](#)
- [my plagues](#)
- [your heart](#)
- [and on your servants](#)
- [and on your people](#)
- [you may know](#)
- [the earth](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [time](#)
- [am planning](#)
- [terrible disasters](#)
- [that will not only make...very sad but also you yourself](#)
- [your officials](#)
- [and the rest of your people](#)
- [you might know](#)
- [the world](#)

Exodus 9:15

For now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague, and you would have been destroyed from the land (ULT)

By this time I could have powerfully struck you and your people with terrible diseases that would have destroyed your nation (UST)

This verse presents two things that God could have done but did not do to the Egyptians. This is to set up the reason he gives in the [next verse](#). Be sure that it is clear in your translation that these are hypothetical past events. See the note regarding Yahweh's stated goals in the next verse. Some languages may need to reverse the order of these verses to put Yahweh's goals before his non-action. Use the natural form in your language for expressing a hypothetical situation. (See: [Hypothetical Situations](#))

I could have stretched out my hand and struck you (ULT)

I could have powerfully struck you (UST)

Here, **my hand** refers to God's power. Alternate translation: "I could have used my power to attack you" (See: [Metonymy](#))

and struck you and your people with a plague (ULT)

struck you and your people with terrible diseases (UST)

Here, **a plague** is spoken about as if it were something that could be used to hit someone. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "and caused you and your people to suffer from a plague" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- I could have stretched out
- my hand
- your people
- with a plague
- and you would have been destroyed
- the land

Translation Words - UST

- I could have
- powerfully
- your people
- with terrible diseases
- that would have destroyed
- your nation

ULT

¹⁵ For now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague, and you would have been destroyed from the land.

UST

¹⁵ By this time I could have powerfully struck you and your people with terrible diseases that would have destroyed your nation.

Exodus 9:16

**However, for this reason I appointed you: in order to show you my power and in order to proclaim my name in all the earth (ULT)
But I have let you live. The reason I have let you live is to show you how strong I am and so that I will be famous all over the world (UST)**

The statements from **to show** to the end of the verse are Yahweh's stated goals, and thus, his reasons for not yet destroying Egypt and Pharaoh. You will need to translate, **However, for this reason I appointed you: in order** in a way that connects with the [previous verse](#) in an action-goal manner. (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

**and in order to proclaim my name in all the earth (ULT)
and so that I will be famous all over the world (UST)**

Here, **my name** represents Yahweh's reputation. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "and so that people everywhere will know who I am" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- I appointed you
- my power
- to proclaim
- my name
- the earth

Translation Words - UST

- I have let you live...I have let you live
- how strong I am
- I will be famous
- I will be famous
- the world

ULT

¹⁶ However, for this reason I appointed you: in order to show you my power and in order to proclaim my name in all the earth.

UST

¹⁶ But I have let you live. The reason I have let you live is to show you how strong I am and so that I will be famous all over the world.

Exodus 9:17

You are still exalting yourself against my people (ULT)

You are still acting proudly...my people (UST)

Pharaoh's opposition to letting the Israelites go to worship Yahweh is spoken of as if he were raising himself up as a barrier to them. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "You are still blocking my people" (See: [Metaphor](#))

ULT

¹⁷ You are still [exalting yourself against my people](#) by failing to let them go.

UST

¹⁷ You are still [acting proudly](#) and refusing to let [my people](#) go.

You are...exalting yourself (ULT)

You are...acting proudly (UST)

Here, Pharaoh is both the subject and object of the sentence. Translate this in a way that conveys that (1) Pharaoh is making Pharaoh (himself) proud and (2) this is metaphorically expressed as Pharaoh making Pharaoh (himself) the obstacle in the Israelites' way to freedom (as discussed in the previous note.) (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

You are...exalting yourself (ULT)

You are...acting proudly (UST)

Here, **you** is Pharaoh.

against my people (ULT)

my people (UST)

Here, **my people** are the Israelites.

Translation Words - ULT

- [You are...exalting yourself](#)
- [against my people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You are...acting proudly](#)
- [my people](#)

Exodus 9:18

Behold me (ULT)

So listen to this (UST)

Alternate translation: "Pay attention to the important thing I am about to tell you"

at this time...which there has never been anything like (ULT)

About this time...there has never been...as bad as this one will be (UST)

Alternate translation: "at this time. There has never been anything like this"

Translation Words - ULT

- hail
- in Egypt
- the day
- it was founded

Translation Words - UST

- large balls of ice...an ice storm
- in Egypt
- the time
- Egypt first became a nation

ULT

¹⁸ Behold me! I am about to cause extremely heavy hail to rain tomorrow at this time, which there has never been anything like in Egypt from the day it was founded until now.

UST

¹⁸ So listen to this: About this time tomorrow I will cause large balls of ice to fall in Egypt. Between the time Egypt first became a nation and today, there has never been an ice storm as bad as this one will be.

Exodus 9:19

send and bring to safety your livestock and all that is yours in the field (ULT)
you should send {a message to all people} to put under shelter {their} domesticated animals and everything else that {they} own that is out in the fields (UST)

The form of address here is singular; Moses is speaking directly to Pharaoh. However, the next two verses make it clear that Pharaoh's servants heard and understood this warning to be for them as well. In this sense Pharaoh represents the Egyptians. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. (See: [Metonymy](#))

and the hail will come down on (ULT)
The ice will fall on (UST)

Alternate translation: "and the balls of ice will drop on"

every man (ULT)
every person...every (UST)

Here, **man** means humans and includes men, women, and children. Alternate translation: "everyone" or "anyone" (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

and beast (ULT)
and...animal (UST)

Here, **and beast** includes domestic and wild animals.

and they will die (ULT)
They will all die (UST)

The people and animals **will die** because they will be fatally injured by the hail. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "and the hail will kill them" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

and they will die (ULT)
They will all die (UST)

Up to three levels of direct quotation (depending on your earlier decision about converting a level to an indirect quotation) end at the end of this verse. You should indicate that ending here with closing first-level, second-level, and third-level (if required) quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the end of quotations within quotations. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

ULT

¹⁹ And now **send** and bring to safety **your livestock** and all that is yours in the field, and **the hail** will come down on every **man and beast** that is found in the field and was not gathered **to the house**, **and they will die.**""

UST

¹⁹ So **you should send {a message to all people}** to put under shelter **{their} domesticated animals** and everything else that **{they} own** that is out in the fields. **The ice** will fall on every **person** and every **animal** that is out in the fields and that is not brought under **a shelter**. **They will all die.**""

Translation Words - ULT

- send
- your livestock
- the hail
- man
- and beast
- to the house
- and they will die

Translation Words - UST

- you should send {a message to all people
- their} domesticated animals
- The ice
- person
- and...animal
- a shelter
- They will all die

Exodus 9:20

The fearers of (ULT) Moses did what Yahweh said...believed and were afraid (UST)

As in some other occasions, Moses' conversation with Pharaoh is not recorded. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express the fact that he did as Yahweh instructed explicitly. See the UST. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

The fearers of the word of Yahweh from the servants of Pharaoh (ULT) Moses did what Yahweh said.} Some of the king's officials believed and were afraid of what Yahweh had said (UST)

Here, **the word of Yahweh** refers to Yahweh's warning, more broadly it means they believed that Yahweh would do what he threatened. Alternate translation: "Those of Pharaoh's servants who feared Yahweh's warning"

Translation Words - ULT

- The fearers of
- the word of...Yahweh
- from the servants of
- their slaves
- Pharaoh
- their livestock
- the houses

Translation Words - UST

- Moses did what Yahweh said...believed and were afraid
- Some of the king's officials
- Some of the king's officials
- all their slaves
- of what Yahweh had said
- and their animals
- shelters

ULT

²⁰ The fearers of the word of Yahweh from the servants of Pharaoh made their slaves and their livestock run to the houses,

UST

²⁰ {Moses did what Yahweh said.} Some of the king's officials believed and were afraid of what Yahweh had said. So they quickly brought all their slaves and their animals under shelters.

Exodus 9:21

but whoever did not set his heart to (ULT) But those who did not believe what...had said (UST)

Here, **set his heart** means he believed or thought something was true. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. Alternate translation: "but whoever did not respect" (See: [Metaphor](#))

the word of Yahweh (ULT) what...Yahweh...had said (UST)

Here, **the word of Yahweh** refers to Yahweh's warning, more broadly it means they did not believe that Yahweh would do what he threatened. Alternate translation: "Yahweh's warning" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [his heart](#)
- [the word of Yahweh](#)
- [his slaves](#)
- [his livestock](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [did...believe](#)
- [what...Yahweh...had said](#)
- [their slaves](#)
- [their animals](#)

ULT

²¹ but whoever did not set [his heart](#) to [the word of Yahweh](#) left [his slaves](#) and [his livestock](#) in the field.

UST

²¹ But those who did not [believe what Yahweh had said](#) left [their slaves](#) and [their animals](#) in the fields.

Exodus 9:22

And Yahweh said (ULT) Then Yahweh said (UST)

A minor scene shift occurs here and may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

your hand (ULT) your hand (UST)

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

man (ULT) the people (UST)

Here, **man** includes women and children. See the UST. (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

beast (ULT) the animals (UST)

Here, **beast** includes domestic and wild animals.

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- your hand
- the heavens
- hail
- the land
- in the land of
- of Egypt
- Egypt
- man
- beast

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- the animals
- your hand
- the sky
- balls of ice
- the land of
- the land of
- Egypt
- Egypt
- the people

ULT

²² And Yahweh said to Moses, "Reach out **your hand** toward **the heavens**, and there will be **hail** in all **the land of Egypt**, on **man** and on **beast** and on every plant of the field **in the land of Egypt**."

UST

²² Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Raise **your hand** up toward **the sky** in order that **balls of ice** {may fall} all over **the land of Egypt**—on **the people**, on **the animals**, and on all the crops in the fields."

Exodus 9:23**his staff (ULT)****his staff (UST)**

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- his staff
- Egypt
- the heavens
- and Yahweh
- Yahweh
- gave
- and hail
- hail
- fire
- to the land
- the land of

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- his staff
- Egypt
- the sky
- and Yahweh
- Yahweh
- brought a storm with
- balls of ice
- the balls of ice
- and lightning
- and lightning
- the land of

ULT

²³ And Moses stretched his staff to the heavens, and Yahweh gave thunder and hail, and fire darted to the land. And Yahweh rained hail on the land of Egypt.

UST

²³ So Moses lifted his staff up toward the sky, and Yahweh brought a storm with thunder, balls of ice, and lightning. Yahweh caused the balls of ice to fall all over the land of Egypt.

Exodus 9:24

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- hail
- the hail
- and fire
- the land of
- Egypt
- a nation

Translation Words - UST

- balls of ice...falling
- ice storm
- lightning
- in Egypt
- in Egypt
- it...a country

ULT

²⁴ And there was hail and fire coming in the middle of the hail; {it was} very heavy, such as it had never been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

UST

²⁴ While balls of ice were falling, lightning was flashing. There had never been such a huge ice storm like that in Egypt since it first became a country.

Exodus 9:25

from man to beast (ULT) animals as well as people (UST)

Here, **from man to beast** is a figure of speech used to emphasize the extent and severity of the hail. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “every living thing” (See: [Merism](#))

from man (ULT) people (UST)

Here, **man** includes women and children. Alternate translation: “from people” or “from mankind” or “from humans” See UST. (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

beast (ULT) animals (UST)

Here, **beast** includes domestic and wild animals.

Translation Words - ULT

- [hail...the](#)
- [the hail](#)
- [the...land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [from man](#)
- [beast](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The ice](#)
- [The ice](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [animals](#)
- [people](#)

ULT

²⁵ And the [hail](#) hit everything in [the land of Egypt](#), everything which was in the field, [from man](#) to [beast](#). And [the hail](#) struck every plant of the field, and it broke every tree of the field.

UST

²⁵ [The ice](#) struck everywhere in [Egypt](#), hitting everything that was outside, [animals](#) as well as [people](#). [The ice](#) destroyed the crops in the fields and broke limbs off the fruit trees.

Exodus 9:26

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- in the land of
- Goshen
- the sons of
- Israel
- hail

Translation Words - UST

- in the region of Goshen
- in the region of Goshen
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- ice

ULT

²⁶ Only in the land of Goshen, where the sons of Israel were, there was no hail.

UST

²⁶ Only in the region of Goshen, where the Israelites were living, was there no ice.

Exodus 9:27

And Pharaoh sent (ULT) Then the king sent {someone (UST)}

A minor scene shift occurs here and may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

I have sinned (ULT) I have sinned (UST)

Some commentators suggest translating **sinned** more literally, that is “missed the mark,” because Pharaoh is probably not admitting a moral failure, but instead, admitting that he misjudged.

is righteous...are guilty (ULT) has done} is right...have done} is wrong (UST)

Many commentators suggest that Pharaoh is using these terms in a narrow, legal sense and only referring to this instance. That is, he is saying something like “I’ve lost this round in court.” See UST.

and my people (ULT) and my people (UST)

Here, **my people** refers to the Egyptians.

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- And...sent
- are guilty
- and he called
- for Moses
- and for Aaron
- I have sinned
- this time
- Yahweh
- is righteous
- and my people

Translation Words - UST

- the king
- Then...sent {someone
- have done} is wrong
- to summon
- Moses
- and Aaron
- This time {I admit that
- I have sinned
- What} Yahweh
- has done} is right

ULT

²⁷ And Pharaoh sent, and he called for Moses and for Aaron. And he said to them, “I have sinned this time. Yahweh is righteous, and I and my people are guilty.”

UST

²⁷ Then the king sent {someone} to summon Moses and Aaron. He said to them, “This time {I admit that} I have sinned. {What} Yahweh {has done} is right, and {what} I and my people {have done} is wrong.”

- and my people

Exodus 9:28

and you will not continue to stay (ULT) you do not have to stay in Egypt any longer (UST)

Here Pharaoh uses a figure of speech that expresses a strong positive meaning by using a negative word together with a word that is the opposite of the intended meaning. If this is confusing in your language, you can express the meaning positively. Alternate translation: "really, I will let you go"(See: [Litotes](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- God
- and hail
- And I will let...go

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- his
- and ice
- I will let...go

ULT

²⁸ Pray to [Yahweh](#), for the thunder of [God and hail](#) are too much. [And I will let you go](#), and you will not continue to stay."

UST

²⁸ Pray to [Yahweh](#) because [his](#) thunder [and ice](#) are terrible! [I will let](#) you and your people [go](#); you do not have to stay in Egypt any longer."

Exodus 9:29

And Moses said to him (ULT)

Moses replied (UST)

Alternate translation: "And Moses said to Pharaoh"

I will spread my palms to Yahweh (ULT)

I will lift up my hands and pray to Yahweh

(UST)

This symbolic gesture accompanies prayer. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "I will pray to Yahweh" (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Yahweh
- belongs to Yahweh
- and the hail
- you may know
- the earth

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- Yahweh
- Yahweh, {not your gods, controls
- and...ice
- you will know
- everything that happens on} the earth

ULT

²⁹ And Moses said to him, "As I leave the city, I will spread my palms to Yahweh. The thunder will cease, and the hail will not continue, so that you may know that the earth belongs to Yahweh.

UST

²⁹ Moses replied, "As soon as I go out of this city, I will lift up my hands and pray to Yahweh. Then the thunder will stop, and no more ice will fall. This will happen in order that you will know that Yahweh, {not your gods, controls everything that happens on} the earth.

Exodus 9:30

But you and your servants (ULT)

But...you and your officials (UST)

This phrase is shifted to the beginning of the sentence to mark focus on Pharaoh and his servants because, despite Yahweh demonstrating his power, they are not yet afraid of him. If your language has a form or discourse feature that draws contrastive focus to participants, use it here. (See: [Connect — Contrary to Fact Conditions](#))

of the face of Yahweh (ULT)

when Yahweh...comes near (UST)

Here, **face** means presence or power. Alternate translation: “of Yahweh” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and your servants](#)
- [I know](#)
- [you are...afraid](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [I know](#)
- [and your officials](#)
- [do...tremble](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [God](#)

ULT

³⁰ But you [and your servants](#), I know that [you are](#) not yet [afraid](#) of the face of [Yahweh God](#).”

UST

³⁰ But I know that you [and your officials](#) still do not [tremble](#) when [Yahweh God](#) comes near.”

Exodus 9:31

This and the next verse give background information so that the destruction caused by the later plagues can be understood by the reader. Use the natural form in your language for expressing background information. (See: [Background Information](#))

And the flax...and the flax (ULT) the flax...the flax (UST)

Flax is a plant that produces fibers that can be made into linen cloth. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

was in ear (ULT) its grain was ripe (UST)

This means the seeds at the top of the barley stalk were developing but still green. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

was in bloom (ULT) the blossoms were forming (UST)

Alternate translation: "was flowering"

Translation Words - ULT

- [and the barley](#)
- [the barley](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the barley](#)
- [the barley](#)

ULT

³¹ (And the flax [and the barley](#) were struck down, for [the barley](#) was in ear, and the flax was in bloom.

UST

³¹ (When the ice fell) it ruined the flax because the blossoms were forming. It also ruined [the barley](#) because its grain was ripe.

Exodus 9:32

and the spelt (ULT)

But...any of the wheat varieties (UST)

Spelt is a kind of wheat. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [But the wheat](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [But...any of the wheat varieties](#)

ULT

³² [But the wheat](#) and the spelt were not struck down, for they are late.)

UST

³² [But](#) it did not ruin [any of the wheat varieties](#), because they grow later in the year.)

Exodus 9:33

and he spread his palms to Yahweh (ULT) He raised his hands toward Yahweh and prayed (UST)

This symbolic gesture accompanies prayer. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 9:29](#). Alternate translation: “lifted up his hands toward Yahweh and prayed” (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [and hail](#)
- [on the earth](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the king](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [and the ice storm](#)
- [the land of Egypt](#)

ULT

³³ And [Moses](#) left the city from being with [Pharaoh](#), and he spread his palms to [Yahweh](#), and the thunder [and hail](#) ceased, and the rain was not poured [on the earth](#).

UST

³³ So [Moses](#) left [the king](#) and went outside the city. He raised his hands toward [Yahweh](#) and prayed. Then the thunder [and the ice storm](#) stopped. The rain also stopped falling on [the land of Egypt](#).

Exodus 9:34

and he caused his heart to be heavy (ULT) made themselves stubborn (UST)

Pharaoh's stubborn attitude is spoken of as if he made his own **heart heavy**. This time his servants do the same. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in [8:15](#). Alternate translation: "Pharaoh determined to be defiant" (See: [Metaphor](#))

and he added to his sin (ULT) he sinned again (UST)

This statement is from the author's perspective. Therefore, unlike in [9:27](#), **sin** should be translated with the word your language uses for "sin."

and he caused his heart to be heavy, he and his servants (ULT) He and his officials made themselves stubborn (UST)

Alternate translation: "and he caused his heart to be heavy. His servants did also" or "and he caused his heart to be heavy. His servants did the same"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Pharaoh](#)
- [and hail](#)
- [to his sin](#)
- [his heart](#)
- [and his servants](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the king](#)
- [the ice storm](#)
- [sinned](#)
- [and his officials](#)
- [made themselves stubborn](#)

ULT

³⁴ And [Pharaoh](#) saw that the rain [and hail](#) and thunder ceased, and he added [to his sin](#), and he caused [his heart](#) to be heavy, he [and his servants](#).

UST

³⁴ But when [the king](#) saw that the rain, [the ice storm](#), and the thunder had stopped, he [sinned](#) again. He [and his officials made themselves stubborn](#).

Exodus 9:35

And the heart of Pharaoh was strong (ULT) So...the king was stubborn (UST)

Pharaoh's stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were **strong**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in [Exodus 7:13](#). This is a neutral statement (it does not say that anyone caused him to be stubborn as many others in this part of the narrative do). Alternate translation: "Pharaoh was still defiant" (See: [Metaphor](#))

just as Yahweh had said by the hand of Moses (ULT)

just as Yahweh had predicted to Moses (UST)

This is similar to [9:12](#). In this case, what Yahweh said is figuratively spoken of as if it were something that could be held in someone's hand. This means that Moses delivered a message from Yahweh that Pharaoh would be stubborn. It is not clear if this message was given to the Israelites or if this refers to Moses' statement to Pharaoh in [9:30](#). If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "just as Yahweh had told Moses to say" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the heart of](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [And...was strong](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [So...was stubborn](#)
- [So...was stubborn](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the king](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

ULT

³⁵ And [the heart of Pharaoh was strong](#), and he did not let [the sons of Israel](#) go, just as [Yahweh](#) had said by the hand of [Moses](#).

UST

³⁵ [So](#), just as [Yahweh](#) had predicted to [Moses](#), [the king was stubborn](#) and did not allow [the Israelites](#) to leave.

Exodus 10

Exodus 10 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

The text does not specify, but some time seems to have passed between chapters nine and ten (see 9:31-32 and 10:5). - v. 1-20: Eighth plague: locusts - v. 16-20: Pharaoh seems to repent, but it does not last - v. 21-29: Ninth plague: darkness

Exodus 10:1

for I have made his heart and the heart of his servants heavy (ULT)

I have made him and his officials stubborn. I have done so in order that I may have a good reason (UST)

This means God made Pharaoh and his servants stubborn. Their stubborn attitude is spoken of as if their **hearts** were **heavy**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in [4:21](#), but note that the metaphor is slightly different here. Alternate translation: "for I have caused Pharaoh and his servants to be stubborn" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [his heart](#)
- [the heart of](#)
- [his servants](#)
- [my signs](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the king](#)
- [have made him and his officials stubborn](#)
- [have made him and his officials stubborn](#)
- [have made him and his officials stubborn](#)
- [all these miracles](#)

ULT

¹ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Go in to [Pharaoh](#), for I have made [his heart](#) and [the heart of his servants](#) heavy, in order to perform these [my signs](#) in his midst,

UST

¹ Then [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Go to [the king](#) again. I [have made him and his officials stubborn](#). I have done so in order that I may have a good reason to do [all these miracles](#) among them.

Exodus 10:2

I toyed with Egypt (ULT) I caused the Egyptians to act very foolishly (UST)

Alternate translation: "I mocked Egypt"

Translation Words - ULT

- you may proclaim
- your son
- and the son of
- your son
- with Egypt
- my signs
- and you will know
- I am Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- you would be able to tell
- your children
- and your grandchildren
- and your grandchildren
- the Egyptians
- all these miracles
- Then all of you will know
- I am Yahweh

ULT

² and so that you may proclaim in the ears of your son and the son of your son that I toyed with Egypt, and my signs which I performed among them—and you will know that I am Yahweh."

UST

² I have also done so in order that you would be able to tell your children and your grandchildren how I caused the Egyptians to act very foolishly when I performed all these miracles among them. Then all of you will know that I am Yahweh."

Exodus 10:3

and said to him (ULT)
and said to him (UST)

After this phrase, a direct quote begins that continues until near the end of 10:6. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

and said to him, “Thus says Yahweh, God of the Hebrews (ULT)
and said to him, “Yahweh God, {the one whom we} Hebrews {worship}, says this (UST)

It may be helpful to turn the introductory quotation into an indirect quotation so that you do not have to use quotes within quotes. Alternate translation: “and told him that Yahweh, the God of the Hebrews, said thus” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Thus says Yahweh (ULT)
Yahweh...says this (UST)

This quotation formula is used to introduce commands from Yahweh. See 4:intro for more information.

Until when will you refuse to be humble from my face (ULT)
How long will you {stubbornly} refuse to bow to me (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of Yahweh. Particularly, it means the presence of his judgment (the plagues). Alternate translation: “Until when will you refuse to be humble when I judge you” or “Until when will you refuse to be humble before me” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [God of](#)
- [the Hebrews](#)
- [to be humble](#)
- [my people](#)
- [and they will serve me](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)

ULT

³ And [Moses and Aaron](#) went in to [Pharaoh](#) and said to him, “Thus says [Yahweh, God of the Hebrews](#): ‘Until when will you refuse [to be humble](#) from my face? Let [my people](#) go, [and they will serve me](#).’

UST

³ So [Moses and Aaron](#) went to [the king](#) and said to him, “[Yahweh God, {the one whom we} Hebrews {worship}](#), says this, ‘How long will you [{stubbornly}](#) refuse to [bow to me](#)? Let [my people](#) go [in order that they may worship me {in the wilderness}](#)!’

- the king
- Yahweh
- God, {the one whom
- we} Hebrews {worship
- bow to me
- my people
- in order that they may worship me {in the wilderness

Exodus 10:4

behold me (ULT)

I warn you that (UST)

Here, **behold me** adds emphasis to what is said next. Alternate translation: "beware"

locust (ULT)

locusts (UST)

Here, **locust** is a singular noun referring to the group as one. If your language does not use singular nouns in that way, you can use a different expression. Alternate translation: "locusts" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

ULT

⁴ For if you refuse to let **my people** go, behold me, I am about to bring **locust** within your borders tomorrow.

UST

⁴ If you do not let **them** go, I warn you that tomorrow I will bring **locusts** into your country.

Translation Words - ULT

- [my people](#)
- [locust](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [them](#)
- [locusts](#)

Exodus 10:5

And it will cover the sight of the land, and none will be able to see the land (ULT)
They will completely cover the ground so that you will not even be able to see it (UST)

These parallel statements have a similar meaning. They are used to emphasize the great number of locusts that are coming. If saying the same thing twice might be confusing for your readers, you can combine the phrases into one. (See: [Parallelism](#))

And it will cover the sight of the land (ULT)
They will completely cover the ground (UST)

Alternate translation: "And it will cover the land from sight"

And it will cover...And it will devour...And it will devour (ULT)
They will...cover...They will eat...They will eat (UST)

Here the pronoun **it** agrees in number with the collective singular "locust" in the previous verse. Insects are often referred to without gender in English, but you will need to use whatever number, gender, or noun class is required in your language to agree with the word for "locust" that you used in the [previous verse](#). See the UST. (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the land](#)
- [the land](#)
- [And it will devour](#)
- [And it will devour](#)
- [whatever escaped](#)
- [the hail](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the ground](#)
- [it](#)
- [They will eat](#)
- [They will eat](#)
- [everything that the ice storm did not destroy](#)
- [everything that the ice storm did not destroy](#)

ULT

⁵ And it will cover the sight of [the land](#), and none will be able to see [the land](#). [And it will devour](#) the remnant of [whatever escaped](#), of whatever is left to you from [the hail](#). [And it will devour](#) every tree growing for you from the field.

UST

⁵ They will completely cover [the ground](#) so that you will not even be able to see [it](#). [They will eat everything that the ice storm did not destroy](#). [They will eat](#) everything that is growing on your fruit trees.

Exodus 10:6

**from the day they came to be on the earth
until this day (ULT)
from the time your ancestors first came to
this land until now (UST)**

Here, **on the earth** could either mean “on the planet” or “on the land” (Egypt). Either way, the entire phrase is meant to emphasize an extremely long time, with the intended meaning being “never.” (See: [Hyperbole](#))

**And he turned around (ULT)
Then Moses {and Aaron} turned (UST)**

[Verse 3](#) says that Aaron came in to see the king with Moses. It is implied that he left with him as well. You may make this explicit if it would help your readers. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- your houses
- and the houses
- and the houses (2)
- the earth
- And he turned around
- Pharaoh
- your servants
- the Egyptians
- your fathers
- nor...fathers of
- the...your fathers
- from the...day
- day

Translation Words - UST

- your houses
- and the houses of all your officials
- and of all the rest of the Egyptians (2)
- and the houses of all your officials
- Then Moses {and Aaron} turned
- the king
- and of all the rest of the Egyptians
- your parents
- or your grandparents
- or your grandparents
- from the time
- now
- this land

ULT

⁶ And they will fill your houses and the houses of all your servants and the houses of all the Egyptians, which your fathers had never seen, nor the fathers of your fathers, from the day they came to be on the earth until this day.” And he turned around and left from being with Pharaoh.

UST

⁶ They will fill your houses and the houses of all your officials and of all the rest of the Egyptians. There will be more locusts than your parents or your grandparents have ever seen from the time your ancestors first came to this land until now!” Then Moses {and Aaron} turned and left the king.

Exodus 10:7

Until when will this be a trap to us (ULT) This is another trap for us (UST)

Pharaoh's servants ask this question to show Pharaoh that he is stubbornly causing the destruction of Egypt. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "We must not let this man continue to cause trouble for us!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

the men (ULT) the Israelites (UST)

Here, **men** may be literal or it may refer to the Israelites, including the women and children. In [verse 10](#) the king rejects the idea of letting the women and children go, and in [verse 11](#) he specifically says that the men can go. (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

Do you not understand yet that Egypt has perished (ULT) You must know that our country is already ruined (UST)

Pharaoh's servants ask this question to bring Pharaoh to recognize what he refuses to see. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "You should realize that Egypt is destroyed!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

that Egypt has perished (ULT) that our country is...ruined (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can express the idea in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "that these plagues have destroyed Egypt" or "that their God has destroyed Egypt" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the servants of](#)
- [and they will serve](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [a trap](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [their God](#)
- [Do you...understand](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [has perished](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The king's officials](#)
- [The king's officials](#)
- [in order that they may worship](#)

ULT

⁷ And [the servants of Pharaoh](#) said to him, "Until when will this be [a trap](#) to us? Let the men go [and they will serve Yahweh their God](#). [Do you not understand](#) yet that [Egypt has perished](#)?"

UST

⁷ [The king's officials](#) said to him, "This is another [trap](#) for us! Let the Israelites go [in order that they may worship Yahweh, their god](#). You must [know](#) that [our country is already ruined](#)."

- trap
- Yahweh
- their god
- You...know
- our country
- is...ruined

Exodus 10:8

And Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh (ULT)

The king ordered someone} to bring Moses and Aaron back to him (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can express the idea in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "And a servant brought Moses and Aaron back to Pharaoh" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Who and who (ULT)

But who (UST)

Alternate translation: "Who all"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [serve](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [your God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The king...him](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [worship](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [your god](#)

ULT

⁸ And [Moses](#) and [Aaron](#) were brought back to [Pharaoh](#), and he said to them, "Go [serve Yahweh your God](#). Who and who shall go?"

UST

⁸ {[The king](#) ordered someone} to bring [Moses](#) and [Aaron](#) back to [him](#). He said to them, "Go [worship Yahweh, your god](#). But who will go?"

Exodus 10:9

We shall go...We shall go (ULT)

We all need to go...We need to take (UST)

We means the Israelites and does not include Pharaoh or the Egyptians. Use an exclusive form here if your language has this distinction. (See: [Exclusive and Inclusive 'We'](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [with our sons](#)
- [with our flocks](#)
- [the festival of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [our sons](#)
- [flocks of sheep and goats and herds of](#)
- [a celebration to honor Yahweh](#)
- [a celebration to honor Yahweh](#)

ULT

⁹ And [Moses](#) said, "We shall go with our young and with our old. We shall go [with our sons](#) and with our daughters, [with our flocks](#) and our herds, because [the festival of Yahweh](#) is for us."

UST

⁹ [Moses](#) replied, "We all need to go, everyone, including those who are young and those who are old. We need to take [our sons](#), our daughters, and our [flocks of sheep and goats and herds of livestock](#) because [a celebration to honor Yahweh](#) is for all of us."

Exodus 10:10

May Yahweh be with you in the same way as I will let you and your children go (ULT)
I am not about to let you go with your women and children because I do not think Yahweh is about to help you (UST)

May Yahweh be with you is usually a blessing but is almost certainly not a blessing here. It likely means something like “It will take Yahweh’s power to make me let you and your children go,” or “May Yahweh be as favorable to you as I am to the idea of letting your children go.” Pharaoh is saying that it will take Yahweh to make him do what Moses wants, but he does not think that will happen. Alternate translation: “It will be clear that Yahweh is with you if I let you and your children go”

See, for evil is before your faces (ULT)
Watch out so that something bad does not happen to you (UST)

The phrase **for evil is before your faces** could either be a warning from Pharaoh that Moses’ actions will lead to evil for the Israelites, or it could mean that Pharaoh thinks the Israelites plan something that he considers evil. **Faces** is a metonym for the whole person. Alternate translations: “I see that you plan evil” or “Be careful! Your actions will have bad consequences” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- your children
- evil

Translation Words - UST

- with your women and children
- because I do not think Yahweh is about to help you
- something bad does not happen to you

ULT

¹⁰ And he said to them, “May Yahweh be with you in the same way as I will let you and your children go. See, for evil is before your faces!”

UST

¹⁰ The king replied, “I am not about to let you go with your women and children because I do not think Yahweh is about to help you. Watch out so that something bad does not happen to you!”

Exodus 10:11

the men (ULT)

with just your men (UST)

This interjection clarifies who may go. Alternate translation: “the leaders”

from the face of Pharaoh (ULT)

Then the king drove...away (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of Pharaoh. Alternate translation: “from his presence” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- and serve
- Yahweh
- are seeking
- And he drove
- Pharaoh

Translation Words - UST

- you keep asking
- worship
- Yahweh
- Then the king drove...away
- Then the king drove...away

ULT

¹¹ Not so! You may go, the men, and serve Yahweh, because this is what you are seeking.” And he drove them from the face of Pharaoh.

UST

¹¹ Since you keep asking, go worship Yahweh with just your men. But no one else may go!” Then the king drove Moses and Aaron away.

Exodus 10:12

And Yahweh said (ULT) Then Yahweh said (UST)

There is a minor scene change here, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

your hand (ULT) your hand (UST)

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

with the locust (ULT) locusts (UST)

Locust is a collective singular noun referring to the group as one. See how you translated this in [10:4](#). Alternate translation: "locusts" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

and let it rise up...and let it devour (ULT) and...will come up...They will eat (UST)

Here, the pronoun **it** agrees in number with the collective singular "locust." See how you translated this in [10:5](#) (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- the hail
- your hand
- the land of
- the land of
- the land
- Egypt
- Egypt
- with the locust
- and let it devour

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- the hail
- your hand
- Egypt
- the country
- Egypt
- the country
- green thing in the whole country
- locusts

ULT

¹² And Yahweh said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the land of Egypt with the locust, and let it rise up over the land of Egypt, and let it devour all of the plants of the land, everything which the hail had spared."

UST

¹² Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over Egypt and locusts will come up and cover the country. They will eat every green thing in the whole country, anything that the hail left behind."

- They will eat

Exodus 10:13

his staff (ULT)

his staff (UST)

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

an east wind (ULT)

a wind...from the east (UST)

The wind blew from east to west.

the locust (ULT)

the locusts (UST)

See how you translated this in 10:4. Alternate translation: "locusts"
(See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [his staff](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [over the land](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [and Yahweh](#)
- [day](#)
- [the locust](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [his staff](#)
- [the country of Egypt](#)
- [the country of Egypt](#)
- [over the land](#)
- [Then Yahweh](#)
- [day](#)
- [the locusts](#)

ULT

¹³ And [Moses](#) reached out [his staff](#) over [the land of Egypt](#), and [Yahweh](#) drove an east wind [over the land](#) all that [day](#) and all night. The morning was, and the east wind had brought [the locust](#).

UST

¹³ So [Moses](#) held out [his staff](#) as though he were stretching it over [the country of Egypt](#). Then [Yahweh](#) caused a wind to blow from the east, and it blew [over the land](#) all that [day](#) and all that night. By the next morning, it had brought [the locusts](#).

Exodus 10:14

the locust...locust (ULT)

The locusts...of locusts (UST)

See how you translated this in 10:4. Alternate translation: "locusts"
(See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the locust](#)
- [locust](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [and came to rest](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The locusts](#)
- [of locusts](#)
- [all over Egypt](#)
- [country](#)
- [all over Egypt](#)
- [They landed](#)

ULT

¹⁴ And [the locust](#) rose up over all [the land of Egypt and came to rest](#) everywhere within the borders of [Egypt](#). They were extremely numerous. Never before was there such [locust](#) like it, and nothing will be like it after.

UST

¹⁴ [The locusts](#) came up [all over Egypt](#). [They landed](#) everywhere in the whole [country](#). There had never been anything like this huge number [of locusts](#), and there will never be anything like it again.

Exodus 10:15

And it covered...And it devoured (ULT)

They covered...They ate (UST)

Here the pronoun **it** agrees in number with the collective singular "locust." See how you translated this in [10:5](#) (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

And it covered the sight of all of the land (ULT)

They covered the surface of the ground (UST)

See how you translated this in [10:5](#).

And it devoured all of the plants of the land and all of the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. And not any of the greenery remained in a tree or in a plant of the field in all of the land of Egypt (ULT)

They ate all the plants in the land and everything on the trees that the ice storm had not destroyed. They left nothing that was green on any tree or on any plant anywhere in Egypt (UST)

These parallel statements reinforce one another. If saying the same thing twice might be confusing for your readers, you can combine the phrases into one. (See: [Parallelism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- of the land
- the land
- the land
- the land of
- And it devoured
- the fruit of
- the hail
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- the surface of the ground
- it
- in the land
- anywhere in Egypt
- They ate
- on the trees
- the ice storm
- anywhere in Egypt

ULT

¹⁵ And it covered the sight of all of the land, and the land was dark. And it devoured all of the plants of the land and all of the fruit of the trees that the hail had left. And not any of the greenery remained in a tree or in a plant of the field in all of the land of Egypt.

UST

¹⁵ They covered the surface of the ground and made it appear black. They ate all the plants in the land and everything on the trees that the ice storm had not destroyed. They left nothing that was green on any tree or on any plant anywhere in Egypt.

Exodus 10:16

your God and against you (ULT)

your god, and against you (UST)

Here, **you** and **your** are plural. These could refer either to Moses and Aaron or to all the Israelites. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- to call
- for Moses
- and for Aaron
- I have sinned
- against Yahweh
- your God

Translation Words - UST

- The king
- called
- Aaron and
- Moses
- I have sinned
- against Yahweh
- your god

ULT

¹⁶ And Pharaoh hurried to call for Moses and for Aaron and said, “I have sinned against Yahweh your God and against you.

UST

¹⁶ The king quickly called Aaron and Moses and said, “I have sinned against Yahweh, your god, and against you.

Exodus 10:17

bear (ULT)
forgive me (UST)

Alternate translation: “take away”

just this once...only (ULT)
this one time...Just (UST)

Pharaoh could either be desperate and using **just this once ... only** to attempt to make his request as small as possible to increase the chances of it being granted, or he could be still too proud to admit guilt beyond this single incident (which is probably his bold statement about Yahweh being with the Israelites in [10:10](#)). The former seems more likely given that he terms this plague “this death.” If your culture has a way of making a request seem as small as possible, you may want to use it to translate Pharaoh’s request.

your God (ULT)
your god (UST)

Here, **your** is plural. This could refer either to Moses and Aaron or to all the Israelites. If your language uses different forms of “you” depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#))

this...death (ULT)
the locusts that will cause us all to die (UST)

The word **death** here refers to the destruction by the locusts of all plants in Egypt, which would eventually lead to the deaths of people, because there would be no crops. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. See the UST. (See: [Metonymy](#))

this...death (ULT)
the locusts that will cause us all to die (UST)

The word **death** here refers to the destruction by the locusts of all plants in Egypt, which would eventually lead to the deaths of people because there would be no crops. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: “this destruction that will lead to our deaths” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [my sin](#)
- [and pray](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [your God](#)
- [death](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [for having sinned](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And now, please bear [my sin](#), just this once, [and pray to Yahweh your God](#) and let him take this [death](#) only away from me.”

UST

¹⁷ Can you forgive me right now [for having sinned](#) this one time? [Please pray to Yahweh, your god](#). Just ask him to take away [the locusts that will cause us all to die](#).”

- Please pray...ask
- to Yahweh...him
- your god
- the locusts that will cause us all to die

Exodus 10:18

And he went out (ULT)

So Moses and Aaron left (UST)

Moses and Aaron were summoned to the king in 10:16, so some translations will need to say that they both left.

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- and he prayed
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- the king
- and Moses prayed
- Yahweh

ULT

¹⁸ And he went out from being with Pharaoh, and he prayed to Yahweh.

UST

¹⁸ So Moses and Aaron left the king, and Moses prayed to Yahweh.

Exodus 10:19

a very strong sea wind (ULT)
the wind so that it blew strongly from the west (UST)

Alternate translation: "a very strong west wind" or "a very strong wind from the west"

and it carried away the locust (ULT)
and it picked up...all the locusts (UST)

Alternate translation: "and it moved the locust upward"

the locust...locust (ULT)
all the locusts...locusts (UST)

See how you translated this in [10:4](#). Alternate translation: "the locusts ... of the locusts" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

and it drove it (ULT)
and forced (UST)

Here, the first **it** refers to the wind; the second **it** agrees in number with the collective singular "locust." See how you translated this in [10:5](#) (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- And...turned
- strong
- the locust
- locust
- into the Sea of Reeds
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Then...changed
- strongly
- all the locusts
- locusts
- into the Red Sea
- anywhere in the country of Egypt

ULT

¹⁹ And Yahweh turned a very strong sea wind, and it carried away the locust, and it drove it into the Sea of Reeds; not one locust remained in all of the territory of Egypt.

UST

¹⁹ Then Yahweh changed the wind so that it blew strongly from the west, and it picked up and forced all the locusts into the Red Sea. There were no locusts left anywhere in the country of Egypt.

Exodus 10:20

And Yahweh strengthened the heart of Pharaoh (ULT)

But Yahweh made the king stubborn again (UST)

This means God made him stubborn. His stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were **strong**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in 4:21. Alternate translation: "But Yahweh caused Pharaoh to be stubborn" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [And...strengthened](#)
- [the heart of](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [But...made...stubborn again](#)
- [But...made...stubborn again](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the king](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

ULT

²⁰ And [Yahweh strengthened the heart of Pharaoh](#), and he did not let [the sons of Israel](#) go.

UST

²⁰ [But Yahweh made the king stubborn again](#), and the king did not let [the Israelites](#) go.

Exodus 10:21

And Yahweh said (ULT)

Yahweh said (UST)

A new scene begins here, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. This is the start of the third plague sequence. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

your hand (ULT)

your hand (UST)

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

Egypt, and darkness will feel (ULT)

all the land of Egypt...so dark that it will seem like people can feel it (UST)

This is a somewhat puzzling construction which describes the darkness. Most English translations take it as a passive, which restated actively means, “people will feel the darkness,” meaning metaphorically what is expressed in different ways in the UST and the alternate translation here. Another option is to view the Hebrew verb form as causative and translate as such: “and the darkness will cause people to feel,” meaning people will have to feel where they are going because they will not be able to see. A final option would be a personification of darkness such that the darkness gropes around, filling in every place in the land. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “Egypt, an extremely oppressive darkness” (See: [Metaphor](#))

ULT

²¹ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Stretch out **your hand** toward **the heavens**, and let it become **dark** over **the land of Egypt**, and **darkness** will feel.”

UST

²¹ Yahweh said to Moses, “Reach **your hand** up toward **the sky** so that it may be **dark** over **all the land of Egypt**, so **dark** that it will seem like people can feel it.”

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- your hand
- the heavens
- dark
- darkness
- the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- your hand
- the sky
- dark
- dark
- all the land of Egypt
- all the land of Egypt

Exodus 10:22**his hand (ULT)****his hand (UST)**

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

for three (ULT)**for three (UST)**

Alternate translation: "for 3" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [his hand](#)
- [the heavens](#)
- [darkness](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [days](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [his hand](#)
- [the sky](#)
- [extremely](#)
- [all over Egypt](#)
- [all over Egypt](#)
- [days and nights](#)

ULT

²² And [Moses](#) stretched out [his hand](#) above [the heavens](#), and dark [darkness](#) was in all of [the land of Egypt](#) for three [days](#).

UST

²² So [Moses](#) reached [his hand](#) toward [the sky](#), and it became [extremely](#) dark [all over Egypt](#) for three [days and nights](#).

Exodus 10:23

No man could see his brother (ULT)

No one could see anyone else (UST)

This phrase means that people could not see the people who lived closest to them, whether or not that person was literally their **brother**. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "No one could see the people who lived with them" (See: [Metonymy](#))

man...man (ULT)

one...one (UST)

Here, **man** refers to any human in general. Alternate translation: "person" (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

for three (ULT)

for three days (UST)

Alternate translation: "for 3" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [his brother](#)
- [rose](#)
- [days](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [light](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [anyone else](#)
- [went](#)
- [for three days](#)
- [light](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

ULT

²³ No man could see [his brother](#), and no man [rose](#) from his place for three [days](#). But for all [the sons of Israel](#), there was [light](#) in their dwelling-places.

UST

²³ No one could see [anyone else](#). No one [went](#) anywhere [for three days](#). But there was [light](#) in the area where [the Israelites](#) lived.

Exodus 10:24

Go serve...your flocks and your herds...your children...with you (ULT)

All right,} you may go and worship...your flocks {of sheep and goats...your herds {of cattle...Your women and your children...with you (UST)

Every instance of **you** and **your**, as well as the imperative verb forms in this verse, are plural. They refer to the Israelites. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- And...called
- Moses
- serve
- Yahweh
- your flocks
- your children

Translation Words - UST

- The king
- called
- Moses
- and worship
- Yahweh
- Your women and your children
- your flocks {of sheep and goats

ULT

²⁴ And Pharaoh called to Moses, and he said, "Go serve Yahweh. Only your flocks and your herds must remain behind; however, your children will go with you."

UST

²⁴ The king called Moses and said, "{All right,} you may go and worship Yahweh. Your women and your children may go with you. But your flocks {of sheep and goats} and your herds {of cattle} must remain here."

Exodus 10:25

**Also you, you must give in our hands
sacrifices and burnt offerings (ULT)
No, you must also let us take our sacrifices
and burnt offerings (UST)**

The construction here is difficult. Based on context, Moses is probably not saying that Pharaoh needs to provide his own animals to the Israelites. He is asking Pharaoh to let the Israelites take their own animals with them. **Give in our hands** means to take with them, by whatever means, which may include holding a rope in the hand to lead the animals or any other means of herding the animals. See the UST. (See: [Metonymy](#))

**sacrifices and burnt offerings (ULT)
our sacrifices and burnt offerings (UST)**

Here, **sacrifices and burnt offerings** refers to the animals of their flocks and herds that they must take. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “animals for sacrifices and burnt offerings” (See: [Metonymy](#))

**and we will do to Yahweh our God (ULT)
to offer to Yahweh, our God (UST)**

Here, **do** means “do the sacrifices and burnt offerings.” Alternate translation: “and we will make those sacrifices and burnt offerings to Yahweh our God”

**in our hands...and we will do...our God (ULT)
take...to offer...our God (UST)**

Here, **we** and **us** refers to the Israelites (same group as the speaker's) while excluding Pharaoh and the Egyptians (listeners' group). If your language distinguishes between forms of we and us based on who is included, be sure to use the one appropriate to the described group. (See: [Exclusive and Inclusive 'We'](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [sacrifices](#)
- [and burnt offerings](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [our God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [our sacrifices](#)
- [and burnt offerings](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [our God](#)

ULT

²⁵ And [Moses](#) said, “Also you, you must give in our hands [sacrifices and burnt offerings](#), and we will do [to Yahweh our God](#).”

UST

²⁵ But [Moses](#) replied, “No, you must also let us take [our sacrifices and burnt offerings](#) to offer [to Yahweh, our God](#).”

Exodus 10:26

our livestock...with us...we shall take...our God. And as for us...we will...know...we must serve...we arrive (ULT)

Our domesticated animals...with us...we must take them...the God we worship. We...will...know...what we will need for worshipping...we get to (UST)

Here, **we**, **our**, and **us** each refers to the Israelites (same group as the speaker's) while excluding Pharaoh and the Egyptians (listeners' group). If your language distinguishes between forms of we, our, and us based on who is included, be sure to use the one appropriate to the described group. (See: [Exclusive and Inclusive 'We'](#))

Not a hoof shall be left behind (ULT)
We are not going to leave one animal behind (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "We cannot leave behind a single animal" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

a hoof (ULT)
one animal (UST)

Here the word **hoof** refers to the entire animal. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. Alternate translation: "a single animal" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

there (ULT)
where we are going (UST)

The destination is unspecified. Previous context suggests it would be at the mountain of God (see [3:1](#), especially [3:12](#), and [4:27](#)), which would take three days of travel to reach (see [3:18](#) and [5:3](#)).

Translation Words - ULT

- [our livestock](#)
- [a hoof](#)
- [to serve](#)
- [we must serve](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [our God](#)
- [we will...know](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Our domesticated animals](#)

ULT

²⁶ And even [our livestock](#) shall go with us. Not [a hoof](#) shall be left behind, for we shall take from them [to serve Yahweh our God](#). And as for us, [we will not know](#) with what [we must serve Yahweh](#) until we arrive there."

UST

²⁶ [Our domesticated animals](#) must also go with us. We are not going to leave [one animal](#) behind because we must take them [to worship Yahweh, the God we worship](#). We will not [know what we will need for worshipping Yahweh](#) until we get to where we are going."

- one animal
- to worship
- what we will need for worshiping
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- the God we worship
- will...know

Exodus 10:27

And Yahweh strengthened the heart of Pharaoh (ULT)

But Yahweh made the king continue to be stubborn (UST)

This means God made him stubborn. His stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were **strong**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in 4:21. Alternate translation: "But Yahweh caused Pharaoh to be stubborn" (See: [Metaphor](#))

and he would not agree to let them go (ULT)

The king would not allow the Israelites to go (UST)

Alternate translation: "and Pharaoh would not consent to let them go"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [And...strengthened](#)
- [the heart of](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [But...made...continue to be stubborn](#)
- [But...made...continue to be stubborn](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the king](#)

ULT

²⁷ And [Yahweh strengthened the heart of Pharaoh](#), and he would not agree to let them go.

UST

²⁷ [But Yahweh made the king continue to be stubborn](#). The king would not allow the Israelites to go.

Exodus 10:28

Watch yourself (ULT) Make sure that (UST)

Here, the listener, Moses, is both the subject and object of the sentence. He is the person told to look (subject) and he himself is what he is told to look at (object). Different languages have different methods of marking this. Alternate translation: "You watch yourself" (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

Watch yourself (ULT) Make sure that (UST)

This is an idiom. Pharaoh is not telling Moses literally to keep looking at himself. Alternate translation: "Be careful" (See: [Idiom](#))

you shall die (ULT) I will have someone kill you (UST)

Pharaoh means he will have Moses killed. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

my face...my face (ULT) me...me (UST)

Here, **face** refers to the whole person. See the UST. (See: [Synecdoche](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- Watch
- my face
- my face
- in the day of
- you shall die

Translation Words - UST

- The king
- Make sure that
- me
- me
- The day
- I will have someone kill you

ULT

²⁸ And Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Watch yourself; you shall not again see my face; because in the day of your seeing my face, you shall die."

UST

²⁸ The king said to Moses and Aaron, "Get out of here! Make sure that you never {come to} see me again! The day you see me again, I will have someone kill you!"

Exodus 10:29

Just as you say (ULT)

You are correct (UST)

With these words, Moses emphasizes that Pharaoh has spoken the truth. Alternate translation: "What you have said is true" (See: [Idiom](#))

your face (ULT)

you (UST)

Here, **face** refers to the whole person. Alternate translation: "you" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [your face](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [you](#)

ULT

²⁹ And [Moses](#) said, "Just as you say, I will not ever see [your face](#) again."

UST

²⁹ [Moses](#) replied, "You are correct! I will never see [you](#) again!"

Exodus 11

Exodus 11 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

Chapter 11 is a transition point in the book. The previous nine plagues (in their three sequences of three) have come to an end and the last plague, the death of the firstborn, is about to occur, along with the Passover and the Exodus itself. It is difficult to know if the events in chapter 11 all are recorded in the order in which they happened. For translation, you should follow the order of the text if it will not confuse your readers.

It may be helpful to think that after the end of chapter 10, Yahweh spoke to Moses immediately, before he actually left Pharaoh's presence (v. 1-2). [Verse 3](#) is a comment suggesting that the Egyptians will be willing to do as the Israelites are told to ask them to do in [v. 2](#). In [verses 4-7](#) Moses gives Pharaoh and his officials a message from Yahweh that Yahweh is giving to Moses right at that moment. At the end of [v. 8](#) Moses leaves Pharaoh's presence (completing the interaction from the [end of ch. 10](#)). [Verse 9](#) may either be Yahweh telling Moses what is going to happen, or it could be part of the summary that occurs in [v. 10](#). Verse 10 summarizes what has happened in chs. 5-10 (especially the plagues in chs. 7-10) in preparation for the great last plague.

Exodus 11:1

to Moses (ULT)**to Moses (UST)**

After this phrase, a direct quote begins that continues until the end of 11:2. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

As soon as he lets go...he will...drive...away (ULT)**When he does...he will...chase (UST)**

These verbs (**lets go** and **drive away**) are meant to immediately follow one another. When you translate, make sure they are almost simultaneous in time; the letting go happens and then immediately the driving away happens. (See: [Connect — Sequential Time Relationship](#))

he will certainly drive...completely away (ULT)**he will absolutely chase (UST)**

The wording here is very forceful. Use strong words, forms, or phrasing when you are translating.

you...you (ULT)**you...you (UST)**

Each occurrence of the word **you** in this verse is plural and refers to Moses and the rest of the Israelites. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- plague
- Pharaoh
- Egypt
- certainly
- he will...drive...away

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- disaster
- the king of
- Egypt...all his people

ULT

¹ And Yahweh said to Moses, "One more plague I will bring on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that he will let you go from here. As soon as he lets go, he will certainly drive you completely away from here.

UST

¹ Yahweh said to Moses, "I will bring one more disaster on the king of Egypt and on all his people. After that, he will let you leave. When he does, he will absolutely chase you out of Egypt.

- [absolutely](#)
- [he will...chase](#)

Exodus 11:2

now (ULT) quickly (UST)

Here, **now** conveys urgency, indicating that Moses should speak soon, without delaying for other things. If you have a way of giving a command that shows that it is important for someone to do it quickly, it would be better to translate in that way than in a way that means “now” in a time sense (versus earlier or later).

in the ears of the people (ULT) to all the Israelites (UST)

Alternate translation: “so the people hear you” or “when all the people are listening”

items of silver and items of gold (ULT) things made from silver and gold (UST)

These could be any sort of thing made from silver or gold (for instance: utensils, cups, pitchers, plates, candleholders), not just jewelry.

[Exodus 3:22](#) contains similar instructions; see how you translated there.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the people](#)
- [his neighbor](#)
- [her neighbor](#)
- [silver](#)
- [gold](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [to all the Israelites](#)
- [all their Egyptian neighbors](#)
- [all their Egyptian neighbors](#)
- [silver](#)
- [gold](#)

ULT

² Speak now in the ears of [the people](#), and let them ask, a man from [his neighbor](#) and a woman from [her neighbor](#), items of [silver](#) and items of [gold](#).”

UST

² Speak quickly [to all the Israelites](#). Tell them to ask [all their Egyptian neighbors](#), both men and women, to give them things made from [silver](#) and [gold](#).”

Exodus 11:3

And Yahweh gave the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians. Furthermore, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the eyes of the servants of Pharaoh and in the eyes of the people (ULT)

Yahweh made the Egyptians willing to help the Israelites. Also, the king's officials and all the rest of the people thought that Moses was one of the most important men in Egypt (UST)

In this verse the author interjects a comment about the situation. Some translations choose to put the verse in parenthesis to indicate this. You may mark it in a way that is natural to your language. (See: [Aside](#))

ULT

³ And Yahweh gave the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians. Furthermore, the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the eyes of the servants of Pharaoh and in the eyes of the people.

UST

³ Yahweh made the Egyptians willing to help the Israelites. Also, the king's officials and all the rest of the people thought that Moses was one of the most important men in Egypt.

the people...favor...in the eyes of the Egyptians (ULT)
the Egyptians...willing to help...the Israelites (UST)

Here, **in the eyes of the Egyptians** is an idiom for the Egyptian's feelings or opinion. **Favor** means those feelings are positive. Taken together, this means that when the Egyptians see the Israelites leaving Egypt, they will gladly help them. (Because the Egyptians have suffered under God's judgment, the Egyptians want so badly to see them leave). If your language has the same or a similar idiom, you can translate or use it. Otherwise, you can translate the meaning. See how you translated this in [3:21](#). (See: [Idiom](#))

in the eyes of the servants of Pharaoh and in the eyes of the people (ULT)
the king's officials and all the rest of the people thought (UST)

Here, **in the eyes of the servants of Pharaoh and in the eyes of the people** is an idiom for their feelings or opinions. If your language has the same or a similar idiom, you can translate or use it. Otherwise, you can translate the meaning. See how you translated a similar idiom in [3:21](#). (See: [Idiom](#))

And Yahweh gave the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians (ULT)
Yahweh made the Egyptians willing to help the Israelites (UST)

[Exodus 3:21](#) contains a related phrase; see how you translated it there.

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- the people
- the people
- favor
- the Egyptians
- of Egypt
- Moses
- in the land
- the servants of

- Pharaoh

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- the Egyptians
- Egypt
- willing to help
- the Israelites
- and all the rest of the people
- the king's
- officials
- that Moses was
- in

Exodus 11:4

Thus says Yahweh (ULT)

This is what Yahweh says (UST)

This quotation formula is used to introduce commands from Yahweh. See 4:intro for more information.

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Yahweh
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Then Moses
- Yahweh
- Egypt

ULT

⁴ And Moses said, "Thus says Yahweh:
'About the middle of the night I will go
out in the midst of Egypt,

UST

⁴ Then Moses said {to the king}, "This is
what Yahweh says: 'About midnight I
will go through Egypt,

Exodus 11:5

firstborn...from the firstborn of...the firstborn of...firstborn of (ULT)
oldest son...the...king's oldest son...slave's oldest son...oldest male born among the animals (UST)

The "firstborn" always refers to the oldest male offspring.

from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the mill, and every firstborn of a beast (ULT)

the rich king's oldest son, the poor mill slave's oldest son, and even every oldest male born among the animals (UST)

This is a merism. First, two extremes are mentioned: the highest of society (**Pharaoh, who sits on his throne**) and the lowest (**the slave girl who is behind the mill**). Then the animals (**beasts**) are added making it a three-item list of parts of society and even the economy to show the totality of the coming judgment. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. (See: [Merism](#))

who is behind the mill (ULT)
the poor mill (UST)

Alternate translation: "who is grinding at the handmill" or "who is behind the handmill grinding grain"

Translation Words - ULT

- firstborn
- from the firstborn of
- the firstborn of
- firstborn of
- in the land of
- a beast
- Egypt
- and...will die
- Pharaoh
- his throne
- the slave girl

Translation Words - UST

- and I will kill...I will kill
- oldest son
- the...king's oldest son
- slave's oldest son
- oldest male born among the animals
- oldest male born among the animals
- in Egypt

ULT

⁵ and every firstborn in the land of Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sits on his throne, to the firstborn of the slave girl who is behind the mill, and every firstborn of a beast.

UST

⁵ and I will kill every oldest son in Egypt. I will kill without exception: the rich king's oldest son, the poor mill slave's oldest son, and even every oldest male born among the animals.

- in Egypt
- rich
- the...king's oldest son
- slave's oldest son

Exodus 11:6

**which nothing like it has ever happened, and nothing like it will happen again (ULT)
than anyone ever has lamented before and more than anyone ever will again (UST)**

This phrase uses the extremes of past and future to emphasize the concept of “never.” If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “such as has never been and never will be” (See: [Merism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [a...cry](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [people all over Egypt](#)
- [people all over Egypt](#)
- [will lament](#)

ULT

⁶ And there will be a great [cry](#) in all [the land of Egypt](#), which nothing like it has ever happened, and nothing like it will happen again.

UST

⁶ When that happens, [people all over Egypt will lament](#) more terribly than anyone ever has lamented before and more than anyone ever will again.

Exodus 11:7

will not sharpen...his tongue (ULT)

will not even bark...will...bark (UST)

This means to make an unfriendly noise. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "will not growl" (See: [Idiom](#))

you will know (ULT)

you will know (UST)

Here, **you** is plural. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

that Yahweh distinguishes between Egypt and between Israel (ULT)

that I, Yahweh, am treating the Egyptians differently from the Israelites (UST)

See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 9:4](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [beast](#)
- [you will know](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [at the Israelites](#)
- [at the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [their animals](#)
- [you will know](#)
- [I, Yahweh](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)

ULT

⁷ But to each of [the sons of Israel](#), a dog will not sharpen his tongue, from man to [beast](#), so that [you will know](#) that [Yahweh](#) distinguishes between [Egypt](#) and between [Israel](#).'

UST

⁷ But dogs will not even bark [at the Israelites](#) or [at their animals](#). Then [you will know](#) for sure that [I, Yahweh](#), am treating [the Egyptians](#) differently from [the Israelites](#).'

Exodus 11:8

and they will bow to me (ULT) and bow down...before me (UST)

This does not mean to bow for worshiping. **They will bow to** Moses to beg him to leave. They will do this to show how desperate they will be for Moses and the Israelites to go. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

and they will bow to me (ULT) and bow down...before me (UST)

They will bow to Moses to beg him to leave. They will do this to show how desperate they will be for Moses and the Israelites to go. If this action would not mean the same thing in your culture, you may need to make the reason they are bowing explicit. Alternate translation: "and they will bow down to me to beg" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

and all the people who are at your feet (ULT) and everyone who is with you (UST)

Here, the people are figuratively pictured as below Moses, which means they are his followers. The reference to **feet** also can mean they go the same place he goes, again, meaning "follower." If your language uses a similar image to mean follower, you can translate the image; if not, you may use another image from your culture or translate the meaning. Alternate translation: "and all the people who are following you" (See: [Metaphor](#))

And after that I will go out (ULT) After that, we will leave Egypt (UST)

This means that Moses and the Israelites will leave Egypt. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "After that I will leave here" or "After that I will go out from Egypt" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

with burning of the nose (ULT) very angrily (UST)

This is an idiom meaning that Moses is angry. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "enraged" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [your servants](#)
- [and they will bow](#)
- [people](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [officials of yours](#)

ULT

⁸ And all [your servants](#), these will come down to me, [and they will bow](#) to me, saying, 'Go, you and all the [people](#) who are at your feet!' And after that I will go out." And he went out from [Pharaoh](#) with burning of the nose.

UST

⁸ Then all these [officials of yours](#) will come [and bow down](#) before me and will say, 'Please get out of Egypt, you and [everyone who is with you](#)!' After that, we will leave Egypt!" When Moses had said that, he left [the king](#) very angrily.

- and bow down
- everyone who is with you
- the king

Exodus 11:9

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- Pharaoh
- multiply
- my miracles
- in the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- The king
- I can cause many
- disastrous miracles
- in his country
- in his country

ULT

⁹ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, in order to multiply my miracles in the land of Egypt.”

UST

⁹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, “The king will not obey you. This is so I can cause many disastrous miracles in his country.”

Exodus 11:10

And Moses and Aaron did all these miracles before the face of Pharaoh. But Yahweh strengthened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not let the sons of Israel go from his land (ULT)

Moses and Aaron did all these miracles in front of the king, but Yahweh made the king stubborn. The king did not let the Israelites leave his land (UST)

This verse is summarizing and wrapping up the story of the plagues. If your language has a way of summarizing information at the end of a story, try to translate this verse (and possibly verse 9 - see the introductory notes to this chapter) in this way. (See: [End of Story](#))

ULT

¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron did all these miracles before the face of Pharaoh. But Yahweh strengthened the heart of Pharaoh, and he did not let the sons of Israel go from his land.

UST

¹⁰ Moses and Aaron did all these miracles in front of the king, but Yahweh made the king stubborn. The king did not let the Israelites leave his land.

But Yahweh strengthened the heart of Pharaoh (ULT) but Yahweh made the king stubborn (UST)

This means God made him stubborn. His stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were **strong**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in [4:21](#). Alternate translation: "But Yahweh caused Pharaoh to be stubborn" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- And Moses
- and Aaron
- the sons of
- Israel
- from his land
- miracles
- before the face of
- Pharaoh
- Pharaoh
- But...strengthened
- Yahweh
- the heart of

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- and Aaron
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- his land
- miracles
- in front of
- the king

- the king
- but...made...stubborn
- but...made...stubborn
- Yahweh

Exodus 12

Exodus 12 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

The events of this chapter are known as the Passover. They are remembered in the celebration of Passover. (See: [Passover](#)) 1. Instruction v. 1-28 * v. 1-20: Yahweh gives instructions * v. 1-11: how to eat this Passover * v. 12-13: description of the plague * v. 14-20: directions for future celebration of Passover * v. 21-28: Moses repeats Yahweh's instructions to Israelites 2. Narrative v. 29-42: Passover and Exodus 3. Instruction v. 43-49: which foreigners may eat Passover 4. Summary Narrative v. 50-51

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Unleavened bread

The concept of unleavened bread is introduced in this chapter. Its significance stems from its connection to the events in this chapter. (See: [unleavened bread](#))

Ethnic segregation

The Hebrew people were to be separate from the rest of the world. Because of this, they separated themselves from other people groups. At this time, these foreigners were looked upon as unholy. (See: [holy](#), [holiness](#), [unholy](#), [sacred](#))

Potential Translation Issues:

Passover

Pronoun usage

In the long quotation (verses 3-20) that Yahweh tells Moses and Aaron to convey to the Israelites, he speaks of them in the third person ("they must") in [verses 3-4](#) and [verses 7-8](#) and to them in the second person ("you must") for all the rest of the instruction. Some languages may need to keep the pronoun person consistent throughout the quotation.

You plural

In this chapter, almost every occurrence of "you" or "your" is plural. Each one refers to all the Israelites. Those that are not will be marked. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form throughout unless otherwise noted. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Exodus 12:1

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- Aaron
- in the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Aaron
- Moses
- in Egypt
- in Egypt

ULT

¹ And Yahweh said to Moses and to Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

UST

¹ Yahweh said to Aaron and Moses in Egypt,

Exodus 12:2

**This month is to you the head of the months
(ULT)
Start counting your months at this new moon
(UST)**

The start of this verse is the beginning of a direct quote which continues until the end of [verse 20](#). It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

ULT

² "This [month](#) is to you [the head of the months](#). It is the first to you [of the months of the year](#).

UST

² "Start counting your [months](#) at this [new moon](#). It will be the Israelites' first [month of the year](#).

**This month is to you the head of the months. It is the first to you of the months of the year (ULT)
Start counting your months at this new moon. It will be the Israelites' first month of the year (UST)**

These two phrases mean basically the same thing and emphasize that the month in which the events of this chapter take place will be the beginning of their calendar year. (See: [Parallelism](#))

**It is the first to you of the months of the year (ULT)
It will be the Israelites' first month of the year (UST)**

The first month of the Hebrew calendar includes the last part of March and the first part of April on Western calendars. It marks when Yahweh rescued the Israelites from the Egyptians. You could convert the Hebrew day and month into an approximate date on the calendar that your culture uses. However, the Jews used a lunar calendar, so if you use a solar calendar, the date will be different every year and the translation will not be entirely accurate. So you may just want to give the number of the day and the name of the month on the Hebrew calendar, and say approximately what time of year that is on your calendar in a footnote. (See: [Hebrew Months](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [month](#)
- [the months](#)
- [of the months](#)
- [is...the head of](#)
- [of the year](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Start counting](#)
- [new moon](#)
- [months](#)
- [month of](#)
- [the year](#)

Exodus 12:3

Speak (ULT)

Tell (UST)

The command here is to both Moses and Aaron. If your language uses a different form if two are people addressed, use a dual form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

This seems to be indicating that if multiple families live in one house, the man who is the leader of the family group that lives there should take one lamb for that whole household. Alternate translation: "the father of each household must take a lamb for his household, one per household"

a lamb...to a house (ULT) a young sheep or a young goat for his household (UST)

Alternate translation: "one lamb per house"

a lamb...a lamb (ULT) a young sheep or a young goat...a young sheep or a young goat (UST)

The word **lamb** literally means "of the flock," and it could also be translated as a sheep or a goat. Here, the ULT uses **lamb** (a young sheep), because [verse 5](#) specifies that it must be one year old. "Kid" (a young goat) would be equally valid as [verse 5](#) also says that it could be either a sheep or a goat. You may translate it as either sheep or goat, whichever would be most familiar.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the congregation of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [month](#)
- [a lamb](#)
- [a lamb \(2\)](#)
- [to the house of](#)
- [to a house](#)
- [the fathers](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Israelite](#)
- [community](#)
- [month](#)
- [every man who leads a family](#)
- [every man who leads a family](#)
- [for his household](#)
- [a young sheep or a young goat](#)
- [a young sheep or a young goat \(2\)](#)

ULT

³ Speak to all [the congregation of Israel](#), saying, 'On the tenth of this [month](#) they shall take to themselves, each man, [a lamb to the house of the fathers: a lamb to a house](#).'

UST

³ Tell the whole [Israelite community](#), 'On the tenth day of this [month](#) [every man who leads a family](#) must take [a young sheep or a young goat for his household](#).'

Exodus 12:4

And if the household is too few for having a lamb (ULT)

If there are not enough people in his family to eat a whole cooked lamb (UST)

This means that there are not enough people in the family to eat an entire lamb. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "If there are not enough people in the household to eat an entire lamb" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

and his neighbor near to his house by the number of people (ULT)

and a family that lives nearby...according to the number of people in each family (UST)

The phrase **by the number of people** helps to clarify which sort of **neighbor near to his house** the Israelite should choose. They should count their own household and another household and try to have a group that is the right number to eat an entire lamb. Alternate translation: "and his neighbor who lives near him and whose family is the right size to share a lamb with"

each man (ULT)

and according to how much each person can eat (UST)

Here **man** refers to each person, whether man, woman, or child. Alternate translation: "each family member" (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the household](#)
- [his house](#)
- [a lamb](#)
- [the lamb...it](#)
- [and his neighbor](#)
- [people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [in his family](#)
- [that lives nearby](#)
- [to eat a whole cooked lamb](#)
- [one animal...the lamb](#)
- [and a family](#)
- [people in each family](#)

ULT

⁴ And if [the household](#) is too few for having [a lamb](#), then he [and his neighbor](#) near to [his house](#) by the number of [people](#) shall take [the lamb](#); according to the eating of the mouth of each man you shall calculate [it](#).

UST

⁴ If there are not enough people [in his family to eat a whole cooked lamb](#), then his family [and a family that lives nearby](#) may kill [one animal](#). Plan to share [the lamb](#) according to the number of [people in each family](#) and according to how much each person can eat.

Exodus 12:5

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- lamb
- complete
- the son of
- a year
- the sheep
- the goats

Translation Words - UST

- a sheep...it...it
- a sheep...it...it
- or a goat
- a one-year-old
- a one-year-old
- and...must be perfect, without any defects

ULT

⁵ Your **lamb** shall be **complete**, male, **the son of a year**. You may take from **the sheep** or from **the goats**.

UST

⁵ You may choose **a sheep or a goat**; but **it** must be **a one-year-old male**, and **it must be perfect, without any defects**.

Exodus 12:6

between the evenings (ULT) in the evening (UST)

This refers to the time of evening after the sun has set but while there is still some light.

Translation Words - ULT

- day of
- month
- the assembly of
- the congregation of
- Israel
- And...shall slaughter

Translation Words - UST

- day of...On that day
- month
- all the Israelites
- all the Israelites
- all the Israelites
- must kill

ULT

⁶ And it shall be to you to reserve until the fourteenth **day of this month**. And all **the assembly of the congregation of Israel shall slaughter** it between the evenings.

UST

⁶ You must take special care of these animals until the fourteenth **day of this month**. **On that day, all the Israelites must kill** the young sheep or young goats in the evening.

Exodus 12:7

on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses (ULT)

on the two doorposts and on the tops of the doorframes of the houses (UST)

Alternate translation: "on the sides and top of the way into the house" or "on the top and sides of the frame around the door into the house"

Translation Words - ULT

- the blood
- doorposts
- the houses

Translation Words - UST

- the blood from the young sheep or young goats
- doorposts
- of the houses

ULT

⁷ And they shall take from the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

UST

⁷ Then they must take some of the blood from the young sheep or young goats, and they must smear it on the two doorposts and on the tops of the doorframes of the houses in which they will eat the meat.

Exodus 12:8

bitter herbs (ULT)

bitter herbs (UST)

These are edible but strong-tasting leaves, seeds, and other parts of plants.

Translation Words - ULT

- the flesh
- fire
- and...unleavened bread

Translation Words - UST

- roast...over a fire
- the animals...the meat
- and with bread that does not have yeast in it

ULT

⁸ And they shall eat the flesh that night, roast of fire, and they shall eat unleavened bread over bitter herbs.

UST

⁸ They must roast the animals over a fire and eat the meat that same night. They must eat it with bitter herbs and with bread that does not have yeast in it.

Exodus 12:9

You shall not eat from it raw (ULT)
**You must not eat any of the meat uncooked...
 the meat (UST)**

Alternate translation: "Do not eat the lamb or goat uncooked"

Translation Words - ULT

- in water
- fire
- its head

Translation Words - UST

- in water
- cook the whole animal over a fire
- Do not remove...head

ULT

⁹ You shall not eat from it raw or boiled from boiling **in water**. But instead, roasted of **fire, its head** with its legs and with its internal organs.

UST

⁹ You must not eat any of the meat uncooked, and you must not cook the meat **in water**. You must do this: **cook the whole animal over a fire**. **Do not remove** the **head**, legs, or inside parts.

Exodus 12:10

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- in the fire

Translation Words - UST

- you must burn to ash

ULT

¹⁰ And you shall not cause to remain anything from it until morning; and you shall burn in the fire what remains from it until morning.

UST

¹⁰ Do not save any of the meat until the next morning. Any meat that you have not eaten by morning, you must burn to ash.

Exodus 12:11

belts fastened (ULT) dressed ready to travel (UST)

Here, **belts** are strips of leather or fabric for tying around the waist.

And you shall eat it with haste (ULT) you must be...You must have...You must eat it hurriedly (UST)

Alternate translation: "And you must eat it quickly"

It is the Passover to Yahweh (ULT) It will be a festival called Passover to honor me, Yahweh (UST)

It refers to eating the animal on the tenth day of the month. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "This observance is Yahweh's Passover" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- belts fastened
- on your waist
- your sandals
- and your staff
- in your hand
- is the Passover
- to Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- dressed ready to travel
- dressed ready to travel
- your sandals
- and your walking staff
- in your hands
- will be a festival called Passover
- to honor me, Yahweh

ULT

¹¹ And this is how you shall eat it: **belts fastened on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand.** And you shall eat it with haste. It is the Passover to Yahweh.

UST

¹¹ When you eat it, you must be **dressed ready to travel.** You must have **your sandals** on your feet **and your walking staff in your hands.** You must eat it hurriedly. It **will be a festival called Passover to honor me, Yahweh.**

Exodus 12:12

And I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt (ULT)

I am punishing all the Egyptians' gods (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **judgment**, you can express the same idea in another way. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the land
- in the land of
- of Egypt
- Egypt
- Egypt
- I am Yahweh
- the firstborn
- from man
- beast
- judgment
- the gods of

Translation Words - UST

- Egypt
- in Egypt
- the Egyptians
- Egypt
- in Egypt
- I am Yahweh
- the oldest males
- both humans
- animals
- I am punishing
- gods

ULT

¹² And I will pass through [the land of Egypt](#) on that night, and I will strike all [the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from man to beast](#). And I will bring [judgment](#) on all [the gods of Egypt](#). I am Yahweh.

UST

¹² On that night I will go throughout [Egypt](#), and I will kill all [the oldest males in Egypt, both humans and animals](#). I am [punishing all the Egyptians' gods](#). I am Yahweh.

Exodus 12:13

for destruction (ULT)

harm (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **destruction**, you can express the same idea in another way.

Alternate translation: “to destroy you” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

and the plague will not be on you (ULT)

I will not harm the people who are in those houses (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “and I will not put the plague on you” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

on the land of Egypt (ULT)

when I come to...the Egyptians (UST)

Yahweh is going to strike the people and animals who live in **the land of Egypt**. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “on everything living in the land of Egypt” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the blood
- the blood
- a sign
- the houses
- the plague
- for destruction
- on the land
- of Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- The blood
- the blood
- your houses
- show that...are obeying me
- harm
- harm
- when I come to...the Egyptians
- when I come to...the Egyptians

ULT

¹³ And **the blood** will be a **sign** for you on **the houses** which you are in. And I will see **the blood**, and I will pass over above you, and **the plague** will not be on you **for destruction** as my striking on **the land of Egypt**.

UST

¹³ **The blood** on **your houses** will **show that you are obeying me**. When I see **the blood**, I will go past those houses. I will not **harm** the people who are in those houses **when I come to** punish **the Egyptians**.

Exodus 12:14

And this day shall become (ULT) will make this day (UST)

Verses 14-20 are instructions for the Israelites' future celebration of the Passover. If your language makes a distinction between near and far future events or between near and general commands, you may need to make clear that these verses primarily have a later application.

this day (ULT) this day (UST)

Here, **this day** means the tenth day of the first month of every year. On this day every year, they must celebrate the Passover. (See: [Hebrew Months](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [day](#)
- [a memorial](#)
- [as a festival](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [for your generations](#)
- [a statute](#)
- [forever](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [day](#)
- [a feast](#)
- [to remember](#)
- [I, Yahweh](#)
- [This is a rule for you](#)
- [every generation of Israelites](#)
- [for all of time](#)

ULT

¹⁴ And this [day](#) shall become a [memorial](#) for you, and you shall celebrate it [as a festival to Yahweh for your generations](#)—a [statute](#) you shall celebrate [forever](#).

UST

¹⁴ You will make this [day](#) a [feast to remember](#) and celebrate what [I, Yahweh](#), will have done for you. [This is a rule for you: every generation of Israelites](#) must celebrate this annual [feast for all of time](#).

Exodus 12:15

Yes (ULT) you must (UST)

Alternate translation: "Surely" or "Indeed"

that person shall be cut off from Israel (ULT) you must drive that person out from your people (UST)

The metaphor **cut off** could mean: (1) the person must leave. Alternate translation: "he must be sent away" (2) the person is no longer an Israelite. Alternate translation: "he will no longer be considered to be one of the people of Israel" (3) the person must die. Alternate translation: "he must be killed" (See: [Metaphor](#))

that person shall be cut off from Israel (ULT) you must drive that person out from your people (UST)

As noted in the previous note, the metaphor **cut off** has at least three possible meanings. By whom that person will be cut off is not specified; it could be the Israelites or Yahweh. If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. The following alternate translations express those: (1) "the people of Israel must send him away" or (2) "I will no longer consider him to be one of the people of Israel" or (3) "the people of Israel must kill him" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

from Israel (ULT) from your people (UST)

Israel is a collective noun referring to the nation or people group. If your language does not use singular nouns in that way, you can use a different expression. Alternate translation: "from the Israelites" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- unleavened bread
- days
- on...day
- from...day
- day
- from your houses
- shall be cut off
- from Israel

Translation Words - UST

- For seven days
- On the first day of that week
- During those seven days
- During those seven days
- bread that has no yeast in it

ULT

¹⁵ You shall eat **unleavened bread** for seven **days**. Yes—on the first **day** you shall remove yeast **from your houses**, because anyone who eats leavened bread from the first **day** until the seventh **day**, that person **shall be cut off from Israel**.

UST

¹⁵ **For seven days** you must eat **bread that has no yeast in it**. **On the first day of that week**, you must remove all the yeast **that is in your houses**. **During those seven days**, if anyone eats bread that has yeast in it, **you must drive** that person **out from your people**.

- that is in your houses
- you must drive...out
- from your people

Exodus 12:16

And on the first day an assembly of holiness, and on the seventh day an assembly of holiness shall be for you (ULT)

On the first day of that week, you must have a holy meeting. You must do the same thing on the seventh day (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "And on the first day and on the seventh day, you shall have an assembly of holiness" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

an assembly of holiness...an assembly of holiness (ULT)

a holy meeting...do the same thing...a...holy...meeting...do the same thing (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. Alternate translation: "a holy assembly ... a holy assembly" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

And on the first day...and on the seventh day (ULT)

On the first day of that week...on the seventh day (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "And on day one of the month ... and on day seven of the month" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

All work shall not be done in these (ULT)

People must not work at all on those two days (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "You will do no work on these days" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

that alone may be done by you (ULT)

The only work...you may do is to prepare (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "which must be the only work that you do" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And on...day](#)
- [and on...day](#)
- [an assembly of](#)
- [an assembly of \(2\)](#)
- [holiness](#)
- [holiness](#)

ULT

16 [And on the first day an assembly of holiness, and on the seventh day an assembly of holiness](#) shall be for you. All [work](#) shall not be done in these, except what each [person](#) eats, that alone may be done by you.

UST

16 [On the first day of that week, you must have a holy meeting. You must do the same thing on the seventh day. People must not work at all on those two days. The only work you may do is to prepare food to eat.](#)

- work
- person

Translation Words - UST

- On the first day of that week
- on the seventh day
- holy
- holy
- food to eat
- a...meeting...do the same thing
- a...meeting...do the same thing (2)
- People must...work

Exodus 12:17

your hosts (ULT) all your tribes (UST)

The term **hosts** refers to a large group of people, often organized into groups for war. See how you translated this in [Exodus 6:26](#). Alternate translation: “your groups” or “your divisions” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Unleavened Bread](#)
- [day](#)
- [day](#)
- [from the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [throughout your generations](#)
- [a statute](#)
- [forever](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Feast of Unleavened Bread](#)
- [day...day](#)
- [on...day](#)
- [in](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [This is a law for you](#)
- [every generation of Israelites](#)
- [for all of time](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And you shall keep [the Unleavened Bread](#), because on this very [day](#) I will have brought out your hosts [from the land of Egypt](#). And you shall keep this [day throughout your generations](#), a [statute forever](#).

UST

¹⁷ You must celebrate [the Feast of Unleavened Bread](#) on this [day](#) because this [day](#) is exactly when I am rescuing all your tribes from slavery [in Egypt](#). [This is a law for you: every generation of Israelites for all of time](#) must celebrate to remember that I rescued you on this [day](#).

Exodus 12:18

**In the first month, on the fourteenth day...
until the twenty-first day of the month (ULT)
of the fourteenth day of the first month of the
year...until...of the twenty-first day of that
month (UST)**

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "In month one, on day fourteen ... until day twenty-one of the month" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

**In the first month, on the fourteenth day...
until the twenty-first day of the month (ULT)
of the fourteenth day of the first month of the
year...until...of the twenty-first day of that month (UST)**

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

**In the first month, on the fourteenth day (ULT)
of the fourteenth day of the first month of the year (UST)**

This is the first month of the Hebrew calendar. The fourteenth day is near the beginning of April on Western calendars. You could convert the Hebrew day and month into an approximate date on the calendar that your culture uses. However, the Jews used a lunar calendar, so if you use a solar calendar, the date will be different every year and the translation will not be entirely accurate. So you may just want to give the number of the day and the name of the month on the Hebrew calendar, and say approximately what time of year that is on your calendar in a footnote.(See: [Hebrew Months](#))

**the twenty-first day of the month (ULT)
of the twenty-first day of that month (UST)**

This is near the middle of April on Western calendars. You could convert the Hebrew day and month into an approximate date on the calendar that your culture uses. However, the Jews used a lunar calendar, so if you use a solar calendar, the date will be different every year and the translation will not be entirely accurate. So you may just want to give the number of the day and the name of the month on the Hebrew calendar, and say approximately what time of year that is on your calendar in a footnote.(See: [Hebrew Months](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [month](#)
- [of the month](#)
- [on...day](#)
- [day](#)
- [unleavened bread](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [day](#)
- [day](#)

ULT

¹⁸ In the first [month](#), on the fourteenth [day](#) in the evening you shall eat [unleavened bread](#) until the twenty-first [day of the month](#) in the evening.

UST

¹⁸ On the evening of the fourteenth [day](#) of the first [month of the year](#), you must stop eating [bread that has yeast in it](#). You may not eat [bread with yeast in it](#) again until the evening of the twenty-first [day of that month](#).

- month of the year
- of that month
- bread that has yeast in it...bread with yeast in it

Exodus 12:19

**no yeast shall be found in your houses (ULT)
you must not have any yeast in your house
(UST)**

This means there should not be any yeast in their houses. If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Note that the UST more accurately conveys the meaning here, as the alternate translation in this note could be understood to mean that you must simply hide the yeast very well. Alternate translation: “Yahweh must not find any yeast in your houses” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**that person shall be cut off from the
congregation of Israel (ULT)
you must drive that person out from your
people (UST)**

See how you translated **cut off** in [Exodus 12:15](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

**that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel (ULT)
you must drive that person out from your people (UST)**

See how you translated **cut off** in [Exodus 12:15](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [days](#)
- [yeast](#)
- [yeasted bread](#)
- [in your houses](#)
- [person](#)
- [shall be cut off](#)
- [from the congregation of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [among the sojourner](#)
- [the land](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [days](#)
- [any yeast](#)
- [bread that has yeast in it](#)
- [from your people](#)
- [in your house](#)
- [either a foreigner](#)
- [or an Israelite](#)
- [you must drive...out](#)
- [person](#)

ULT

¹⁹ For seven [days](#) no [yeast](#) shall be found [in your houses](#). Because anyone who eats [yeasted bread](#), that [person](#) shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel—among the sojourner or among the native of the land.

UST

¹⁹ For those seven [days](#) you must not have [any yeast in your house](#). During that time, if anyone—either a [foreigner](#) or an [Israelite](#)—eats [bread that has yeast in it](#), you must drive that [person](#) out from your people.

- from your people

Exodus 12:20

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- yeast
- unleavened bread

Translation Words - UST

- yeast
- bread that does not have yeast in it

ULT

²⁰ You shall not eat any yeast; in all of your dwelling places you shall eat unleavened bread.”

UST

²⁰ Do not eat any yeast. Wherever you are living, you must eat bread that does not have yeast in it.”

Exodus 12:21

summoned

A new scene begins at this verse, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- And...called
- the elders of
- Israel
- a lamb
- and slaughter
- the Passover

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- Then...summoned
- Israelite
- the...leaders
- a young sheep or young goat...it
- and kill
- to eat it to celebrate the festival that you will call 'Passover

ULT

²¹ And Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and he said to them, "Proceed and take a lamb for yourself, according to your families, and slaughter the Passover.

UST

²¹ Then Moses summoned all the Israelite leaders. He said to them, "Each family should select a young sheep or young goat and kill it to eat it to celebrate the festival that you will call 'Passover.'

Exodus 12:22

a bunch of hyssop (ULT)

a bunch of hyssop (UST)

Hyssop is a woody plant with small leaves that can be used for sprinkling liquids by dipping the leaves in the liquid and then shaking them or brushing them over the target. If this plant is unknown, you can use a descriptor phrase. Alternate translation: “part of a plant with small branches and many leaves” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

to the lintel and to both the doorposts (ULT)

on the top of the doorframe and on the doorposts of your houses (UST)

Alternate translation: “on the sides and top of the way into the house.” See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 12:7](#).

not...a man (ULT)

must stay inside...The people (UST)

Here, **man** includes women and children. Alternate translation: “no person” (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [in the blood](#)
- [the blood](#)
- [the doorposts](#)
- [his house](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [in the blood](#)
- [of the blood](#)
- [the doorposts of your houses](#)
- [in each house...the house](#)

ULT

²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it [in the blood](#) that is in the basin and apply to the lintel and to both [the doorposts](#) from [the blood](#) that is in the basin. And you, not a man shall go out from the door of [his house](#) until morning.

UST

²² {Let the lamb's blood drain} into a bowl. Get a bunch of hyssop and dip it [in the blood](#). Then wipe some [of the blood](#) on the top of the doorframe and on [the doorposts of your houses](#). The people [in each house](#) must stay inside [the house](#) until the next morning.

Exodus 12:23

and Yahweh will pass over the door (ULT) Because of that, he will pass over those houses (UST)

Here the word **door** implies the entire house. This means that God will spare the Israelites in houses with blood on the door frames. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. Alternate translation: “and Yahweh will pass over the house” (See: [Synecdoche](#))

on the lintel and on the two doorposts (ULT) on your doorframes (UST)

Alternate translation: “on the sides and top of the way into the house” See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 12:7](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- the Egyptians
- the blood
- doorposts
- the causer of destruction
- your houses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- he
- Egypt
- the blood
- your doorframes
- the killing-destroyer
- your houses

ULT

²³ And [Yahweh](#) will pass through to strike [the Egyptians](#). And he will see [the blood](#) on the lintel and on the two [doorposts](#), and [Yahweh](#) will pass over the door and will not permit [the causer of destruction](#) to enter into [your houses](#) to strike.

UST

²³ When [Yahweh](#) goes through [Egypt](#) to kill every oldest male, he will see [the blood](#) on [your doorframes](#). Because of that, [he](#) will pass over those houses and will not allow [the killing-destroyer](#) to enter [your houses](#) to kill your oldest sons.

Exodus 12:24**this...thing (ULT)****this ritual (UST)**

These words refer to the Passover or Festival of Unleavened Bread. Observing the Passover was an act of worshiping Yahweh.

for you and for your sons (ULT)**You and your descendants (UST)**

Here, **you** and **your** are singular but they refer to the whole nation. If the singular form would not be natural in your language for someone who was speaking to a group of people, you could use the plural forms of “you” in your translation. (See: [Singular Pronouns that refer to Groups](#))

and for your sons (ULT)**and your descendants (UST)**

Here, **sons** includes everyone. (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [as a statute](#)
- [and for your sons](#)
- [eternity](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [and your descendants](#)
- [forever](#)
- [this is a law](#)

ULT

²⁴ And you shall keep this thing [as a statute](#) for you [and for your sons](#) until [eternity](#).

UST

²⁴ You [and your descendants](#) must celebrate this ritual [forever](#); [this is a law](#).

Exodus 12:25

this...service (ULT)

this...ritual (UST)

Here, **this service** refers to the Passover or Festival of Unleavened Bread. Observing the Passover was an act of worshiping Yahweh.

Translation Words - ULT

- the land
- Yahweh
- service

Translation Words - UST

- in the land
- Yahweh
- ritual

ULT

²⁵ And so it will happen, as you enter into [the land](#) that [Yahweh](#) will give to you, just as he said, then you shall keep this [service](#).

UST

²⁵ When you arrive [in the land](#) that [Yahweh](#) will give to you as he promised, you must keep celebrating this [ritual](#) every year.

Exodus 12:26

your sons (ULT)

your children (UST)

Here, **your sons** refers to all children, as in the UST. (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

to you...What is this service to you (ULT)

you...What does this ritual mean (UST)

After **you**, a second-level quotation begins. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. However, you may want to translate this as an indirect quotation in order to reduce the layers of quotations in this passage. Alternative translation: "to you what this ritual means to you," (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

ULT

²⁶ And it will happen, when **your sons** are saying to you, 'What is this **service** to you?'

UST

²⁶ When **your children** ask you, 'What does this **ritual** mean?'

Translation Words - ULT

- [your sons](#)
- [service](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [your children](#)
- [ritual](#)

Exodus 12:27

And he rescued our households (ULT) but he did not kill the sons in our houses (UST)

This means that Yahweh spared the Israelites' firstborn sons. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "He did not kill the firstborn sons in our houses" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the sacrifice of
- Passover
- the people
- And...bowed their heads
- and prostrated themselves
- to Yahweh
- the houses of
- our households
- the sons of
- Israel
- in Egypt
- the Egyptians
- he rescued

Translation Words - UST

- ritual is to remember how your ancestors
- sacrificed lambs on the night
- After Moses told them this, the elders all
- bowed their heads
- and worshiped Yahweh
- that Yahweh's angel
- the houses of
- in our houses
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- when they were in Egypt
- in all the Egyptian houses
- he did not kill the sons

ULT

²⁷ then you shall say, 'It is the sacrifice of Passover to Yahweh, who passed over the houses of the sons of Israel in Egypt in striking the Egyptians. And he rescued our households.'" And the people bowed their heads and prostrated themselves.

UST

²⁷ you must tell them, 'This ritual is to remember how your ancestors sacrificed lambs on the night that Yahweh's angel passed over the houses of the Israelites when they were in Egypt. He killed the oldest males in all the Egyptian houses, but he did not kill the sons in our houses.'" After Moses told them this, the elders all bowed their heads and worshiped Yahweh.

Exodus 12:28

**as Yahweh had commanded Moses and Aaron, so they did (ULT)
exactly what Yahweh told Moses and Aaron to tell them to do (UST)**

Alternate translation: "everything that Yahweh told Moses and Aaron to do"

Translation Words - ULT

- the sons of
- Israel
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses
- and Aaron

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- Yahweh
- told...to tell
- Moses
- and Aaron

ULT

²⁸ And [the sons of Israel](#) went and did; as [Yahweh had commanded Moses and Aaron](#), so they did.

UST

²⁸ Then [the Israelites](#) did exactly what [Yahweh told Moses and Aaron to tell them to do](#).

Exodus 12:29

The next few verses are the climax of this part of Exodus. A number of literary features mark it out. First, it is specially introduced with **and so it happened**, which is used to mark major breaks in the narrative. Second, it uses repetition: **firstborn** is repeated four times in verse 29 so that the reader cannot possibly miss what is happening. **Night** is repeated in verse 29, 30, and 31. **Got up/get up** is repeated in verse 30 and 31. In verses 31 and 32 “also” occurs five times (it is translated as “both” once in the ULT). Third, the places of both **Pharaoh** and **the captive** are elaborated on to slow the pace and create a vivid mental image for the reader. In verse 30 there is the listing of sorts of people who got up; note the use of the double negative for emphasis. Your translation should attempt to use the same or similar literary features of your own language that slow down the pace, create vivid imagery, and emphasize that this is a climax point.

from the firstborn of Pharaoh sitting on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the house of the pit, and all the firstborn of beasts (ULT)

This included the rich king’s oldest son, the oldest sons of the prisoners in the dungeons, and the oldest males of all the {Egyptians’} livestock (UST)

This phrase indicates that there was no person or household excluded from Yahweh’s judgment. It both speaks of extreme parts of society and then makes this into a list by including the animals. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on the throne and the firstborn of the captive who was in the house of the pit and the firstborn of everyone in between was struck; even all the firstborn of the beasts were struck” (See: [Merism](#))

the firstborn...from the firstborn of...the firstborn of...the firstborn of (ULT)
the...oldest sons...This included...oldest son...the oldest sons of...the oldest males of (UST)

In these usages, **firstborn** always refers to the oldest male offspring. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 11:5](#).

to the firstborn of the captive who was in the house of the pit (ULT)
the oldest sons of the prisoners in the dungeons (UST)

Alternate translation: “to the firstborn of people in the house of the pit” This refers to prisoners in general and not to a specific person in prison.

Translation Words - ULT

- [and Yahweh](#)
- [the firstborn](#)
- [from the firstborn of](#)
- [the firstborn of](#)
- [the firstborn of](#)
- [the pit](#)

ULT

29 And so it happened, in the middle of the night, [and Yahweh](#) struck all [the firstborn in the land of Egypt](#), [from the firstborn of Pharaoh sitting on his throne](#) to [the firstborn of the captive who was in the house of the pit](#), and all [the firstborn of beasts](#).

UST

29 At midnight [Yahweh](#) killed all the [Egyptians’ oldest sons](#), [all over Egypt](#). This included the [rich king’s oldest son](#), [the oldest sons of the prisoners in the dungeons](#), and [the oldest males of all the {Egyptians’} livestock](#).

- beasts
- in the land of
- Egypt
- Pharaoh
- his throne
- the captive
- was in the house of

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Egyptians...Egypt
- the prisoners
- in the dungeons
- in the dungeons
- the {Egyptians'} livestock
- the...oldest sons
- This included...oldest son
- the oldest sons of
- the oldest males of
- all over
- rich
- the...king's

Exodus 12:30

**for there was not a house where there was not someone dead (ULT)
because in every house someone's son had died (UST)**

If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement. Alternate translation: "because someone was dead in every house" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- And...got up
- his servants
- the Egyptians
- in Egypt
- a house
- someone dead

Translation Words - UST

- the king
- his officials
- the rest of the Egyptians
- all over Egypt
- awoke and discovered
- house
- someone's son had died

ULT

³⁰ And Pharaoh got up in the night—he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where there was not someone dead.

UST

³⁰ That night the king, all his officials, and all the rest of the Egyptians awoke and discovered what had happened. They wailed loudly all over Egypt, because in every house someone's son had died.

Exodus 12:31

you...as you have said (ULT) you...as you requested (UST)

Here, Pharaoh speaking is to both Moses and Aaron. If your language uses a different form if two are people addressed, use a dual form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- And he called
- for Moses
- and for Aaron
- my people
- the sons of
- Israel
- serve
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- the king summoned
- Moses
- and Aaron
- all the other Israelites
- all the other Israelites
- from my people and country
- and worship
- Yahweh

ULT

³¹ And he called for Moses and for Aaron in the night and said, "Get up, get out from among my people, both you and also the sons of Israel. And go, serve Yahweh, as you have said.

UST

³¹ That night the king summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "Get up, you and all the other Israelites, and get away from my people and country now! Go and worship Yahweh, as you requested!

Exodus 12:32

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- your flocks
- your herds
- and...bless

Translation Words - UST

- your flocks of sheep and goats
- herds of cattle
- Ask Yahweh to bless

ULT

³² Also take **your flocks**, also **your herds** as you have said, and go, and also **bless** me."

UST

³² You may even take **your flocks of sheep and goats** and **herds of cattle** just as you requested. Just leave! **Ask Yahweh to bless** me also!"

Exodus 12:33

We are all dying (ULT) we will all die (UST)

The Egyptians were afraid that they would die if the Israelites did not leave Egypt. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "We will all die if you do not leave" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Egyptians](#)
- [And...strengthened](#)
- [the people](#)
- [the land](#)
- [dying](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The Egyptians](#)
- [helped](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [their country](#)
- [die](#)

ULT

³³ And [the Egyptians strengthened the people](#), hurrying to let them go from [the land](#), for they said, "We are all [dying](#)."

UST

³³ [The Egyptians helped the Israelites](#) to leave [their country](#) quickly. They said, "Otherwise, we will all [die](#)!"

Exodus 12:34

**Their kneading bowls were wrapped in their clothes on their shoulders (ULT)
the bowls in which they mixed the dough to make bread...that was in the bowls...and they wrapped the bowls in their cloaks...the bowls on their shoulders (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "They tied up their bread-making bowls in their clothes and placed them on their shoulders" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [it developed leaven](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [yeast in it](#)

ULT

³⁴ And the people carried his dough before [it developed leaven](#). Their kneading bowls were wrapped in their clothes on their shoulders.

UST

³⁴ So the Israelites prepared to leave at once. They took the bowls in which they mixed the dough to make bread and the dough that was in the bowls without any [yeast in it](#), and they wrapped the bowls in their cloaks. They put the bowls on their shoulders.

Exodus 12:35

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- And the sons of
- Israel
- Moses
- from the Egyptians
- silver
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- Then the Israelites
- Then the Israelites
- Moses
- them...to their Egyptian neighbors
- for silver
- gold

ULT

³⁵ And the sons of Israel did according to the word of Moses. And they asked from the Egyptians items of silver and items of gold and clothing.

UST

³⁵ Then the Israelites did as Moses told them. They went to their Egyptian neighbors and asked them for silver, gold, and clothing.

Exodus 12:36

the people favor in the eyes of the Egyptians

(ULT)

the Egyptians to greatly respect the Israelites

(UST)

Here, **in the eyes of the Egyptians** is an idiom for the Egyptian's feelings or opinion. **Favor** means that those feelings are positive. Taken together, this means that when the Egyptians saw the Israelites leaving Egypt, they gladly helped them (because they wanted them to leave so badly due to the Egyptians suffering under God's judgment). If your language has the same or a similar idiom, you can translate or use it. Otherwise, you can translate the meaning. See how you translated this in 3:21. (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And Yahweh](#)
- [the people](#)
- [favor](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [of the Egyptians](#)
- [to greatly respect](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

ULT

³⁶ [And Yahweh](#) gave [the people favor](#) in the eyes of [the Egyptians](#). And they made the request, and they plundered [the Egyptians](#).

UST

³⁶ [Yahweh](#) caused [the Egyptians to greatly respect the Israelites](#), so they gave them what they asked for. In that way, the Israelites carried away the wealth [of the Egyptians](#).

Exodus 12:37

from Rameses (ULT)

from the city of Rameses (UST)

Rameses was a major Egyptian city where grain was stored. See how you translated this in [Exodus 1:11](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

about 600,000 (ULT)

There were about 600, 000 (UST)

Alternate translation: "about six hundred thousand" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [toward Succoth](#)
- [from children](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The Israelites](#)
- [The Israelites](#)
- [to the town of Succoth](#)
- [to the women and children](#)

ULT

³⁷ And [the sons of Israel](#) journeyed from Rameses [toward Succoth](#), about 600,000 strong men on foot, apart [from children](#).

UST

³⁷ [The Israelites](#) walked from the city of Rameses [to the town of Succoth](#). There were about 600, 000 men who went, in addition [to the women and children](#).

Exodus 12:38

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- and flock
- and herd
- livestock

Translation Words - UST

- of livestock, including
- flocks of sheep and goats
- and herds of cattle

ULT

³⁸ And also a mixed multitude went up with them, **and flock and herd**—a very great number of **livestock**.

UST

³⁸ Many other people who were not Israelites went along with them. There was also a large amount of **of livestock, including flocks of sheep and goats and herds of cattle**.

Exodus 12:39

because they were driven out of Egypt (ULT) Pharaoh forced the Israelites to leave Egypt (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "because the Egyptians had driven them out of Egypt" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- from Egypt
- of Egypt
- into unleavened bread
- it was...leavened
- they were driven out

Translation Words - UST

- Pharaoh forced the Israelites to leave
- from Egypt
- Egypt
- to allow the bread dough to form yeast...it did...have yeast
- flatbread

ULT

³⁹ And they baked the dough that they brought from Egypt into unleavened bread, for it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt, and they could not delay. And furthermore, they had not made provisions for themselves.

UST

³⁹ Pharaoh forced the Israelites to leave Egypt so quickly that they did not have time to prepare food to take with them or to allow the bread dough to form yeast. When they made bread with the dough they brought from Egypt, they made flatbread because it did not have yeast.

Exodus 12:40

430...430 (ULT)

430...430 (UST)

Alternate translation: "four hundred thirty" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [in Egypt](#)
- [was...years](#)
- [was...years](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The Israelites](#)
- [The Israelites](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [for...years](#)
- [for...years](#)

ULT

⁴⁰ And the residence of [the sons of Israel](#), during which they resided in [Egypt](#), was 430 [years](#).

UST

⁴⁰ [The Israelites](#) had lived in [Egypt](#) for 430 [years](#).

Exodus 12:41**430...430 (ULT)****430...430 (UST)**

Alternate translation: "four hundred thirty" (See: [Numbers](#))

the hosts of (ULT)**the tribes of...people (UST)**

The term **hosts** refers to a large group of people, often organized into groups for war. See how you translated this in [Exodus 6:26](#).

Alternate translation: "your groups" or "your divisions" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- years
- years
- day
- Yahweh
- from the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- years
- years
- day
- Yahweh's
- Egypt
- Egypt

ULT

⁴¹ And so it was, at the end of 430 years, it was on that very day all of the hosts of Yahweh went out from the land of Egypt.

UST

⁴¹ On the day that those 430 years ended, on that very day, all the tribes of Yahweh's people left Egypt.

Exodus 12:42

**for Yahweh...all the sons of Israel to observe for...throughout their generations (ULT)
as Yahweh...every year...that they dedicate... when the Israelites and their descendants in every generation remember how...kept their ancestors safe (UST)**

Alternate translation: "for all the sons of Israel throughout their generations to observe for Yahweh"

Translation Words - ULT

- for Yahweh
- for...Yahweh (2)
- from the land of
- Egypt
- the sons of
- Israel
- throughout their generations

Translation Words - UST

- as Yahweh
- to Yahweh...Yahweh (2)
- of Egypt
- of Egypt
- every year...and their descendants in every generation
- the Israelites
- the Israelites

ULT

⁴² It was a night of observing for Yahweh to bring them out from the land of Egypt. This night, it is for all the sons of Israel to observe for Yahweh throughout their generations.

UST

⁴² It was a night when the Israelites stayed awake as Yahweh brought them out of Egypt. So this same night every year is a night that they dedicate to Yahweh, a night when the Israelites and their descendants in every generation remember how Yahweh kept their ancestors safe.

Exodus 12:43

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- and Aaron
- is the statute of
- the Passover
- son of
- foreignness

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- and Aaron
- is the law
- about the Passover ritual
- foreigners
- foreigners

ULT

⁴³ And Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the statute of the Passover: Any son of foreignness shall not eat it.

UST

⁴³ Then Yahweh said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the law about the Passover ritual: Do not let foreigners eat the Passover meal.

Exodus 12:44**But any slave of a man (ULT)****But if anyone...a slave (UST)**

Alternate translation: "But any slave of an Israelite"

**if you circumcised him, then (ULT)
and circumcises him, that slave may eat (UST)**

This is a hypothetical situation. You will need to use whatever form your language uses to mark something as potentially true. (See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#))

**if you circumcised (ULT)
and circumcises (UST)**

Here **you** is singular. It refers to a specific man and his slave. It might make more sense to use the third person here. Alternate translation: "if he circumcised" (See: [Forms of 'You' — Singular](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [slave of](#)
- [silver](#)
- [if you circumcised](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [buys](#)
- [a slave](#)
- [and circumcises](#)

ULT

⁴⁴ But any [slave of](#) a man, a purchase of [silver](#), [if you circumcised](#) him, then he may eat it.

UST

⁴⁴ But if anyone [buys a slave and circumcises](#) him, that slave may eat the Passover meal.

Exodus 12:45

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- An outsider
- or a hireling

Translation Words - UST

- people who are living temporarily among you who are not Israelites
- or servants to whom you pay money

ULT

⁴⁵ An outsider or a hireling shall not eat it.

UST

⁴⁵ Do not let people who are living temporarily among you who are not Israelites or servants to whom you pay money eat the Passover meal.

Exodus 12:46

It shall be eaten in one house (ULT)
You must eat the Passover meal inside one house (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "You must eat it in one house" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

You shall not bring (ULT)
Do not take (UST)

Here, **you** is singular, however it is used to address a crowd. If the singular form would not be natural in your language for someone who was speaking to a group of people, you could use the plural forms of "you" in your translation. (See: [Singular Pronouns that refer to Groups](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [in...house](#)
- [house...the](#)
- [the...flesh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [inside...house](#)
- [the house](#)
- [the meat](#)

ULT

⁴⁶ It shall be eaten in one [house](#). You shall not bring from the [house](#) from the [flesh](#) to the outside, and you shall not break its bone.

UST

⁴⁶ You must eat the Passover meal [inside](#) one [house](#). Do not take any of the [meat](#) outside [the house](#). Do not break the lamb's bones.

Exodus 12:47

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the congregation of
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- Israelite
- community

ULT

⁴⁷ All the congregation of Israel shall do it.

UST

⁴⁷ The whole Israelite community must celebrate this festival.

Exodus 12:48

**And if a sojourner is sojourning with you, and keeps the Passover to Yahweh (ULT)
When someone from another country comes to live with you and wants to celebrate Yahweh's Passover festival (UST)**

This is a two-part hypothetical situation. It describes the circumstance and desire of the sojourner; the next portion says what he must do. You will need to use whatever form your language uses to mark something as potentially true. (See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#))

**with you (ULT)
with you (UST)**

Here, **you** is singular, however it is used to address a crowd. If the singular form would not be natural in your language for someone who was speaking to a group of people, you could use the plural forms of “you” in your translation. (See: [Singular Pronouns that refer to Groups](#))

**all his males shall be circumcised (ULT)
circumcise all the males in his household (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “someone must circumcise all males in his household” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**all his males shall be circumcised. And then he may draw near to keep it (ULT)
circumcise all the males in his household. Then he can eat the Passover meal (UST)**

The sojourner will be circumcised in order to **draw near to keep** the Passover. Some languages may need to place the purpose clause first. Alternate translation: “in order draw near to keep it all his males must be circumcised” (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

**like a native of the land (ULT)
and you should treat that man as though he had been born an Israelite (UST)**

Here, **land** refers to Canaan—which is the land that the Israelites will soon live in. The expression **a native of the land** means a person who is a native Israelite. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “those who are Israelites by birth” (See: [Metonymy](#))

ULT

⁴⁸ And if a sojourner is sojourning with you, and keeps the Passover to Yahweh, all his males shall be circumcised. And then he may draw near to keep it, and he will become like a native of the land. And any uncircumcised person shall not eat it.

UST

⁴⁸ When someone from another country comes to live with you and wants to celebrate Yahweh's Passover festival, circumcise all the males in his household. Then he can eat the Passover meal, and you should treat that man as though he had been born an Israelite. But do not allow men who are not circumcised to eat the Passover meal.

And any uncircumcised person shall not eat it (ULT)

But do not allow men who are not circumcised to eat the Passover meal (UST)

If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement.

Alternate translation: "And only a circumcised person may eat it" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- is sojourning
- a sojourner
- the Passover
- to Yahweh
- shall be circumcised
- uncircumcised person
- of the land

Translation Words - UST

- comes to live
- someone from another country
- Yahweh's
- Passover festival
- circumcise
- men who are not circumcised
- and you should treat that man as though he had been born an Israelite

Exodus 12:49

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- law
- and for the sojourner
- sojourning

Translation Words - UST

- These rules
- and to foreigners who
- come and live

ULT

⁴⁹ One law shall be for the native and for the sojourner sojourning among you.”

UST

⁴⁹ These rules apply to people who were born as Israelites and to foreigners who come and live among you.”

Exodus 12:50

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the sons of
- Israel
- Yahweh
- commanded
- Moses
- Aaron

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- Moses
- Aaron
- Yahweh
- had commanded

ULT

⁵⁰ And all of the sons of Israel did—just as Yahweh commanded Moses and Aaron—so they did.

UST

⁵⁰ All the Israelites obeyed Moses and Aaron and did what Yahweh had commanded.

Exodus 12:51

And so it was, in that very day (ULT)

On that very day (UST)

This phrase is used here to mark an important event in the story. If your language has a way for doing this, you could consider using it here.

their hosts (ULT)

all the...tribes (UST)

The term **hosts** refers to a large group of people often organized into groups for war. See how you translated this in [Exodus 6:26](#). Alternate translation: “your groups” or “your divisions” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- day
- Yahweh
- the sons of
- Israel
- from the land
- of Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- day
- Yahweh
- Israelite
- Israelite
- out of
- Egypt

ULT

⁵¹ And so it was, in that very day, Yahweh brought the sons of Israel out from the land of Egypt by their hosts.

UST

⁵¹ On that very day, Yahweh brought all the Israelite tribes out of Egypt.

Exodus 13

Exodus 13 General Notes

Structure and formatting

Instruction

- v. 1-2: First mention of setting apart the firstborn
- v. 3-10: Reiteration of the Passover instructions from [12:14-20](#) and [24-27](#), with a focus on telling to Yahweh's deeds to the future generations of Israelites
- v. 11-13: More details on setting apart the firstborn
- v. 14-16: Reiteration of purpose: telling to future generations

Narrative

- v. 17-22: Some details of the exodus

Special concepts in this chapter

- There are several concepts that will be important to understand and translate with care (some have already been encountered in Exodus). They are: set apart, sign, symbol, redemption, and sacrifice.

Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

- There are a number of names of people groups and places in this chapter. However, many have been translated in earlier passages.
- Transporting the bones of Joseph may be an unknown concept in some places.
- It may take some time to decide on a good translation for the pillars of fire and cloud that lead the Israelites.

Exodus 13:1

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses

ULT

¹ And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

UST

¹ Yahweh said to Moses,

Exodus 13:2

**Set apart to me all the firstborn, openers of every womb among the sons of Israel, among man and among beast; he is mine (ULT)
Consecrate all the firstborn {males} in order that they may belong to me. The firstborn {males} of {the Israelite} people and of {their} animals will be mine (UST)**

This entire verse is a direct quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with first-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

ULT

² "Set apart to me all the firstborn, openers of every womb among the sons of Israel, among man and among beast; he is mine."

UST

² "Consecrate all the firstborn {males} in order that they may belong to me. The firstborn {males} of {the Israelite} people and of {their} animals will be mine."

Translation Words - ULT

- Set apart
- the firstborn
- openers of
- womb
- among the sons of
- Israel
- among man
- and among beast

Translation Words - UST

- Consecrate
- the firstborn {males}
- The firstborn {males} of {the
- The firstborn...males} of...the
- Israelite
- Israelite
- people
- and of {their} animals

Exodus 13:3

from the house of slavery (ULT) I freed you from being the Egyptians' slaves (UST)

Moses speaks of Egypt as if it were a house where people keep slaves. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "the place where you were slaves" (See: [Metaphor](#))

by a strong hand (ULT) powerfully (UST)

Here, **hand** refers to power. See how you translated "strong hand" in [Exodus 6:1](#). (See: [Metonymy](#))

And no yeast may be eaten (ULT) Do not eat any bread that has yeast in it {whenever you celebrate this day (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language, as in the UST. (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [the people](#)
- [day](#)
- [from Egypt](#)
- [from the house of](#)
- [slavery](#)
- [by a strong](#)
- [hand](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [yeast](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the people](#)
- [any bread that has yeast in it {whenever you celebrate this day](#)
- [today! This is the day...This is the day](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [I freed you from being the Egyptians' slaves](#)
- [I freed you from being the Egyptians' slaves](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [powerfully](#)
- [powerfully](#)

ULT

³ And [Moses](#) said to [the people](#), "Remember this [day](#), that you went out from [Egypt](#), from the house of slavery, because [by a strong hand](#) [Yahweh](#) brought you out from here. And no [yeast](#) may be eaten.

UST

³ [Moses](#) said to [the people](#), "Always remember [today! This is the day](#) that you left [Egypt](#). [This is the day I freed you from being the Egyptians' slaves](#). [Yahweh](#) has [powerfully](#) brought you out of [Egypt](#). Do not eat [any bread that has yeast in it {whenever you celebrate this day}](#)."

Exodus 13:4

Aviv (ULT) which is the first day of the month of Aviv (UST)

This is the name of the first month of the Hebrew calendar. Aviv is during the last part of March and the first part of April on Western calendars. You could convert the Hebrew day and month into an approximate date on the calendar that your culture uses. However, the Jews used a lunar calendar, so if you use a solar calendar, the date will be different every year and the translation will not be entirely accurate. So you may just want to give the number of the day and the name of the month on the Hebrew calendar, and say approximately what time of year that is on your calendar in a footnote. (See: [Hebrew Months](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Today](#)
- [in the month of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [on this day](#)
- [which is the first day of the month of Aviv](#)

ULT

⁴ [Today](#) you are going out, [in the month of Aviv](#).

UST

⁴ You are leaving Egypt [on this day](#), [which is the first day of the month of Aviv](#).

Exodus 13:5

And it will be that Yahweh will bring you to the land of...and you shall serve this service in this month (ULT)

Later, when Yahweh brings you into the land where the descendants...now live...the land... you must celebrate this festival in this month every year (UST)

When the Israelites live in Canaan, they must celebrate the Passover on this day each year. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 12:25](#).

to your fathers (ULT)

your ancestors (UST)

Here, **fathers** figuratively means “ancestors.” Alternate translation: “to your ancestors” (See: [Metonymy](#))

a land flowing with milk and honey (ULT)

a land that will be very good for raising livestock and growing crops (UST)

The same description occurs in [Exodus 3:8](#). See how you translated it there and in the several notes for it.

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- the land of
- a land
- and honey
- and you shall serve
- service
- in...month
- the Canaanite
- and the Hittite
- and the Amorite
- and the Hivite
- and the Jebusite
- he swore
- to your fathers

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- the land where the descendants...now live
- a land that will be
- he promised
- your ancestors
- and growing crops

ULT

⁵ And it will be that Yahweh will bring you to the land of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, which he swore to your fathers to give to you, a land flowing with milk and honey—and you shall serve this service in this month.

UST

⁵ Later, when Yahweh brings you into the land where the descendants of Canaan, Heth, Amor, Hiv, and Jebus now live, the land that he promised your ancestors that he would give to you, a land that will be very good for raising livestock and growing crops, you must celebrate this festival in this month every year.

- in...month every year
- of Canaan
- Heth
- Amor
- Hiv
- and Jebus
- the land...you must celebrate this festival
- the land...you must celebrate this festival

Exodus 13:6

Seven (ULT) For seven (UST)

Alternate translation: "7" (See: [Numbers](#))

and on the seventh day (ULT) On the seventh day (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "and on day 7" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [days](#)
- [and on...day](#)
- [unleavened bread](#)
- [there shall be} a festival](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [days](#)
- [On...day](#)
- [the bread...not have any yeast in it](#)
- [you must have a celebration](#)
- [to honor Yahweh](#)

ULT

⁶ Seven [days](#) you shall eat [unleavened bread](#), and on the seventh [day](#) {[there shall be](#)} a festival to Yahweh.

UST

⁶ For seven [days the bread](#) you eat must [not have any yeast in it](#). On the seventh [day](#), you must have a celebration to honor Yahweh.

Exodus 13:7**Unleavened bread shall be eaten (ULT)
Do not eat bread that has yeast in it (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "You must eat unleavened bread" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**seven (ULT)
for seven (UST)**

Alternate translation: "7" (See: [Numbers](#))

**and leavened bread may not be seen among
you (ULT)
You should not have any yeast (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "you may not have any bread with yeast among you" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**And yeast may not be seen among you (ULT)
You...should...have...or bread made with yeast (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "You may not have any yeast" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**within any of your borders (ULT)
anywhere in your land (UST)**

Alternate translation: "inside any of the borders of your land"

Translation Words - ULT

- Unleavened bread
- throughout the...days
- leavened bread
- yeast

Translation Words - UST

- not...bread that has yeast in it
- days
- any yeast
- bread made with yeast

ULT

⁷ Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days, and leavened bread may not be seen among you. And yeast may not be seen among you within any of your borders.

UST

⁷ Do not eat bread that has yeast in it for seven days. You should not have any yeast or bread made with yeast anywhere in your land.

Exodus 13:8

on that day, saying, 'This is because of what Yahweh did for me when I came out from Egypt (ULT)

On the day that you celebrate the festival... you must tell...We are doing this to remember what Yahweh did for us when we left Egypt (UST)

The quotation can be stated as an indirect quote. Alternate translation: "on that day that this is because of what Yahweh did for you when you came out of Egypt" (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [your son](#)
- [on...day](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [from Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [On the day that you celebrate the festival](#)
- [your children](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Egypt](#)

ULT

⁸ And you shall tell [your son](#) on that [day](#), saying, 'This is because of what [Yahweh](#) did for me when I came out from [Egypt](#).'

UST

⁸ [On the day that you celebrate the festival](#), you must tell [your children](#), 'We are doing this to remember what [Yahweh](#) did for us when we left [Egypt](#).'

Exodus 13:9

**And it shall be a sign for you on your hand and a memorial between your eyes (ULT)
The celebration will be like something you tie on your forehead or on your wrist. It will remind you (UST)**

This phrase compares the Festival of Unleavened bread to two different types of physical reminders that help people not forget something important. (See: [Parallelism](#))

**a sign for you on your hand (ULT)
or on your wrist...will remind you (UST)**

Moses speaks of celebrating the festival as if it were an object one could tie around their hands to remind them of what Yahweh had done. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "like something you tie around your hand as a reminder" (See: [Metaphor](#))

**and a memorial between your eyes (ULT)
something you tie on your forehead...will remind (UST)**

Moses speaks of celebrating the festival as if it were an object one could tie on their foreheads to remind them of what Yahweh had done. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "and like something you tie around your head as a reminder" (See: [Metaphor](#))

**so that the law of Yahweh may be in your mouth (ULT)
will remind...to recite to others what Yahweh has instructed you (UST)**

Here, **in your mouth** refers to the words that they speak. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "so you may always be speaking of the law of Yahweh" (See: [Metonymy](#))

**with a strong hand (ULT)
powerfully (UST)**

Here, **hand** refers to power. See how you translated "strong hand" in [Exodus 6:1](#). (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a sign
- your hand
- with a...hand
- from Egypt
- and a memorial
- the law of Yahweh
- Yahweh

ULT

⁹ And it shall be a sign for you on your hand and a memorial between your eyes, so that the law of Yahweh may be in your mouth, for with a strong hand Yahweh brought you out from Egypt.

UST

⁹ The celebration will be like something you tie on your forehead or on your wrist. It will remind you to recite to others what Yahweh has instructed you, because you are grateful to him for powerfully bringing you out of Egypt.

- Yahweh
- strong

Translation Words - UST

- or on your wrist
- powerfully
- will remind
- of Egypt
- will remind
- what Yahweh has instructed you
- Yahweh
- him
- powerfully

Exodus 13:10

from days to days (ULT)
every year, forever (UST)

Alternate translation: "for all time" (See: [Merism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- statute
- at its appointed time
- from days
- to days

Translation Words - UST

- festival
- every year, forever
- every year, forever
- at the time Yahweh has appointed

ULT

¹⁰ And you shall keep this statute at its appointed time from days to days.

UST

¹⁰ So you must celebrate this festival every year, forever, at the time Yahweh has appointed.

Exodus 13:11**and to your fathers (ULT)
and your ancestors (UST)**

Here, **fathers** figuratively means “ancestors.” Alternate translation: “to your ancestors” (See: [Metonymy](#))

**and he gives it to you (ULT)
he gives...to you (UST)**

Alternate translation: “when he gives the land of the Canaanites to you”

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [the Canaanites](#)
- [he swore](#)
- [and to your fathers](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [the land...that land](#)
- [where the descendants of Canaan live](#)
- [he promised...that he would do](#)
- [and your ancestors](#)

ULT

¹¹ And it will be, when [Yahweh](#) brings you into [the land of the Canaanites](#), as [he swore](#) to you [and to your fathers](#), and he gives it to you,

UST

¹¹ [Yahweh](#) will bring you into [the land where the descendants of Canaan live](#), as [he promised](#) to you [and your ancestors that he would do](#). When he gives [that land](#) to you,

Exodus 13:12

then cause to pass over (ULT) you must give (UST)

This is a deliberate word-play with [Exodus 12:12](#) and [Exodus 12:23](#) because these memorial sacrifices are to be reminders of what happened at the first Passover. It would be good to make a similar word-play in your translation, if possible, but following the meaning as in the UST is fine.

Translation Words - ULT

- to Yahweh
- are for Yahweh
- the womb
- beasts

Translation Words - UST

- the firstborn...of...people...animals
- the firstborn...of...people...animals
- to Yahweh
- belong to Yahweh

ULT

¹² then cause to pass over to Yahweh all the openers of the womb, and all the openers of the litter of beasts that are yours. The males are for Yahweh.

UST

¹² you must give all the firstborn males of both people and animals to Yahweh. These all will belong to Yahweh.

Exodus 13:13

with a lamb...then you shall break his neck (ULT)

by killing a lamb instead of it...you must kill the donkey by breaking its neck (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could make explicit that either the **lamb** or **donkey** must be killed, as in the UST. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

you do not ransom it (ULT)

you do not buy it back (UST)

Alternate translation: "you do not ransom the donkey"

Translation Words - ULT

- a donkey
- you shall ransom
- you do...ransom it
- you shall ransom
- with a lamb
- the firstborn of
- men
- among your sons

Translation Words - UST

- donkey
- you must buy it back
- you do...buy it back
- You must buy back
- by killing a lamb instead of it
- of your firstborn
- sons
- sons

ULT

¹³ And every opener of a donkey you shall ransom with a lamb. And if you do not ransom it, then you shall break his neck. And all the firstborn of men among your sons, you shall ransom.

UST

¹³ In the case of a firstborn donkey, you must buy it back by killing a lamb instead of it. If you do not buy it back, you must kill the donkey by breaking its neck. You must buy back every one of your firstborn sons.

Exodus 13:14

when your son asks you later, saying, 'What is this?' then you shall say to him (ULT)

In the future, when one of your children... asks...What does this mean?' you must say to him (UST)

The first quotation can be stated as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: "when your son asks you later what this means, then you are to tell him" (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

With a strong hand (ULT)
powerfully (UST)

Here, **hand** represents God's actions or works. See how you translated this in [Exodus 6:1](#). Alternate translation: "With his powerful works" (See: [Metonymy](#))

from the house of slaves (ULT)
from being slaves there (UST)

Moses speaks of Egypt as if it were a house where people keep slaves. See how you translated this in [Exodus 13:3](#). Alternate translation: "from the place where you were slaves" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [your son](#)
- [With...strong](#)
- [a...hand](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [from Egypt](#)
- [from the house of](#)
- [slaves](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [one of your children](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [powerfully](#)
- [powerfully](#)
- [of Egypt](#)
- [from being slaves there](#)
- [from being slaves there](#)

ULT

¹⁴ And so it will be, when [your son](#) asks you later, saying, 'What is this?' then you shall say to him, 'With a [strong hand](#) [Yahweh](#) brought us out [from Egypt](#), [from the house of slaves](#).'

UST

¹⁴ In the future, when [one of your children](#) asks, 'What does this mean?' you must say to him, '[Yahweh powerfully](#) brought us out [of Egypt](#) and freed us [from being slaves there](#).'

Exodus 13:15

**that when Pharaoh was hard to let us go (ULT)
What happened was...The king of Egypt did
not let us leave his land (UST)**

If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. This means he was stubborn. His stubborn attitude is spoken of as if he were **hard**. Alternate translation: “that when Pharaoh resisted letting us go” (See: [Metaphor](#))

**from the firstborn of man and to the firstborn
of beast (ULT)
both the boys and the firstborn of their
livestock (UST)**

This is a figure of speech used to emphasize the extent of the plague, nothing was exempt. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “whether he was a person or an animal” (See: [Merism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [when...was hard](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [beast](#)
- [sacrifice](#)
- [I ransom](#)
- [my sons](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [the firstborn](#)
- [from the firstborn of](#)
- [the firstborn of](#)
- [the firstborn of](#)
- [in the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [man](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The king of Egypt](#)
- [did not let](#)
- [now sacrifice](#)
- [we buy back](#)
- [our own...sons](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [the firstborn males](#)
- [both the boys](#)

ULT

¹⁵ And so it was, that [when Pharaoh was hard](#) to let us go, then [Yahweh](#) struck all of [the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of man](#) and to [the firstborn of beast](#). That is why I [sacrifice to Yahweh](#) all the openers of the womb—the males—and I [ransom](#) all of [the firstborn of my sons](#).’

UST

¹⁵ What happened was: [The king of Egypt did not let](#) us leave his land, so [Yahweh](#) killed all [the firstborn males in Egypt, both the boys](#) and [the firstborn of their livestock](#). That is why we [now sacrifice to Yahweh](#) all the firstborn of our livestock, but [we buy back our own firstborn sons](#).’

- the firstborn of
- firstborn
- in Egypt
- in Egypt
- both the boys
- their livestock

Exodus 13:16

**And it shall be a sign on your hand and a headband between your eyes (ULT)
This celebration will be like something you tie on your wrist or on your forehead to remind you (UST)**

This expresses two ways to remember the importance of the Passover event. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 13:9](#). (See: [Parallelism](#))

**with a strong hand (ULT)
powerfully (UST)**

Here, **hand** represents God's actions or works. See how you translated this in [Exodus 6:1](#). Alternate translation: "with his powerful works" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a sign
- your hand
- Yahweh
- from Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- like something you tie...or...to remind you
- your wrist
- Yahweh
- of Egypt

ULT

¹⁶ And it shall be a sign on your hand and a headband between your eyes, for with a strong hand Yahweh brought us out from Egypt."

UST

¹⁶ This celebration will be like something you tie on your wrist or on your forehead to remind you that Yahweh powerfully brought you out of Egypt."

Exodus 13:17

Verses 17-19 provide background information about the Israelites process of leaving Egypt. Use the natural form in your language for expressing background information. (See: [Background Information](#))

And so it was (ULT) When...let...go (UST)

This marks the transition from instruction to narrative. You should mark the resumption of the narrative in a natural way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although it was nearby (ULT) God did not guide them along the road toward the Philistines' land. Even though it was shorter (UST)

The route on which God took the Israelites was not the expected route. In some languages you may need to put the portion that describes the expectation first. Alternate translation: "although it was nearby, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines." (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

Lest the people repent when they see war and return to Egypt (ULT) If...enemies attack them, they...may...change their minds and go back to Egypt (UST)

In some languages you may need to put the reason before the hypothetical result. Alternate translation: "When they see war, they may repent and return to Egypt" (See: [Hypothetical Situations](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Pharaoh
- the people
- the people
- God
- God (2)
- the land of
- the Philistines
- repent
- and return
- to Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- the king of Egypt
- the Israelites
- they
- to Egypt

ULT

17 And so it was, when Pharaoh let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although it was nearby. For God said, "Lest the people repent when they see war and return to Egypt."

UST

17 When the king of Egypt let the Israelites go, God did not guide them along the road toward the Philistines' land. Even though it was shorter, God thought, "If enemies attack them, they may change their minds and go back to Egypt."

- God
- God (2)
- toward...land
- the Philistines
- change their minds
- and go back

Exodus 13:18

And...by fives (ULT) in an orderly formation (UST)

The meaning of this term (**by fives**) is uncertain. Many English translations opt for something like “prepared for battle,” because this seems to be the meaning in Numbers 32:17 and the related verses in Joshua 1:14 and 4:12. Because of what the previous verse said about war, it may mean that they went out in formation—like an army would march—but perhaps not armed. Alternate translation: “And ... in formation like an army”

Translation Words - ULT

- God
- the people
- the wilderness
- to the Sea of Reeds
- the sons of
- Israel
- from the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- God
- them
- through the wilderness
- toward the Red Sea
- The Israelites
- The Israelites
- Egypt
- Egypt

ULT

¹⁸ And God caused the people to turn to the way of the wilderness, to the Sea of Reeds. And the sons of Israel went up from the land of Egypt by fives.

UST

¹⁸ Instead, God led them to go around through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. The Israelites left Egypt in an orderly formation.

Exodus 13:19

And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him (ULT)

Moses had them take the bones of Joseph along with them (UST)

See Joshua 24:32 regarding the burial of Joseph's bones.

the bones of...God will certainly attend to you, and you shall bring...my bones...up with you from here (ULT)

the bones of...God will always care for you. {When he brings you to the promised land,} you must carry...my bones...with you (UST)

This is an almost exact quote of what Joseph said in Genesis 50:25; reference your translation there when translating this.

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Joseph
- he had...caused...to vow
- the sons of
- Israel
- God

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- Joseph
- Joseph long ago had made...promise that they would do that
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- God

ULT

¹⁹ And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had certainly caused the sons of Israel to vow, saying, "God will certainly attend to you, and you shall bring my bones up with you from here."

UST

¹⁹ Moses had them take the bones of Joseph along with them, because Joseph long ago had made the Israelites promise that they would do that. He had said to them, "God will always care for you. {When he brings you to the promised land,} you must carry my bones with you."

Exodus 13:20

from Succoth, and they camped at Etham (ULT)

from Succoth to Etham...They set up their tents there (UST)

Alternate translation: "from a place named Succoth, and they camped at a place named Etham"

at Etham (ULT)
to Etham (UST)

Etham was possibly located south of the route heading toward the Philistines, at the border of the wilderness. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [from Succoth](#)
- [the wilderness](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [from Succoth](#)
- [of the wilderness](#)

ULT

²⁰ And they journeyed [from Succoth](#), and they camped at Etham on the edge of [the wilderness](#).

UST

²⁰ The Israelites went [from Succoth](#) to Etham (which was at the edge [of the wilderness](#)). They set up their tents there.

Exodus 13:21

**And Yahweh went before their faces (ULT)
When they walked...Yahweh went in front of
them...he went in front of them (UST)**

Here, **before their faces** means “in front of the people.” Alternate translation: “And Yahweh led them by going in front of them” (See: [Metonymy](#))

**in a pillar of cloud...in a pillar of fire (ULT)
in a tall cloud...in a tall flame (UST)**

The possessive here indicates characteristic. The **cloud** and **fire** looked like a **pillar**. Alternate translation: “in a cloud that looked like a pillar ... in a fire that looked like a pillar” or “in a pillar-shaped cloud ... in a pillar-shaped fire”

**to be light to them (ULT)
so they had light (UST)**

Alternate translation: “to be light for them”

**fire to be light to them, to go by day or by night (ULT)
flame so they had light and could travel in the daytime and also at nighttime
(UST)**

They could travel either by day or night because God provided light at night. You could reorder the cause and effect if that is more natural in your language. Alternate translation: “fire. They could go by day or by night because he was light to them.” (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And Yahweh](#)
- [by day](#)
- [by day](#)
- [in a pillar of](#)
- [in a pillar of](#)
- [fire](#)
- [to be light](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [during the daytime](#)
- [in the daytime](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [in a tall](#)
- [in a tall](#)
- [flame](#)
- [so they had light](#)

ULT

²¹ [And Yahweh](#) went before their faces [by day in a pillar of](#) cloud to lead them on the way, and by night [in a pillar of fire to be light](#) to them, to go [by day](#) or by night.

UST

²¹ When they walked [during the daytime](#), [Yahweh](#) went in front of them [in a tall](#) cloud to show them the way. During the night, he went in front of them [in a tall flame so they had light](#) and could travel [in the daytime](#) and also at nighttime.

Exodus 13:22

the daytime pillar of cloud or the nighttime pillar of fire (ULT)
in the tall cloud during the day and in the tall flame during the night (UST)

See how you translated this in [13:21](#).

from the face of the people (ULT)
Yahweh...left them. He was there (UST)

Here, **from the face of the people** means “from in front of the people” where they could see it. Alternate translation: “from where they could see it” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [daytime](#)
- [the...pillar of](#)
- [or the...pillar](#)
- [of fire](#)
- [people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh...left them. He was there](#)
- [in the tall](#)
- [and in the tall](#)
- [during the day](#)
- [flame](#)

ULT

²² He did not withdraw the [daytime pillar of cloud](#) or the nighttime [pillar of fire](#) from the face of the [people](#).

UST

²² [Yahweh](#) never [left them](#). He was [there in the tall cloud during the day](#) and [in the tall flame](#) during the night.

Exodus 14

Exodus 14 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

This whole chapter is the record of an important event in the history of Israel known as the “parting of the sea of reeds (Red Sea).” Throughout this chapter and chapter 15, the word “sea” is used. Exodus 13:18 and 15:22 show that this is the sea of reeds (Red Sea). Since the text does not explicitly say that though, the ULT will only say “sea.” In your translation, it may help people to be more specific than the text if just using “sea” is confusing.

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Pharaoh’s chariots

These chariots were a fighting force. Pharaoh took an army to kill the Hebrew people. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Important Figures of Speech in this Chapter

Rhetorical Questions

The Israelites asked a few rhetorical questions of Moses. These questions were not really directed at Moses, but at Yahweh. This showed their lack of faith in Yahweh. (See: [Rhetorical Question](#) and [faith](#))

Exodus 14:1

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses

ULT

¹ And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

UST

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses,

Exodus 14:2

Say (ULT)

Tell (UST)

This verse begins a direct quote which continues into [verse 4](#). It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. There may be other quotations in this chapter; they will be marked by the same punctuation, but they will not have their own notes unless there is something unique about them. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Pi Hahiroth...Migdol...Baal Zephon (ULT)

Pi Hahiroth...it. That place...Migdol...Baal Zephon (UST)

These are locations on Egypt's eastern border. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

the sons of Israel that they should turn and camp before the face of Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, before the face of Baal Zephon (ULT)
the Israelites to turn toward Pi Hahiroth and camp near it. That place is between Migdol and the {Red} Sea, near Baal Zephon (UST)

The portion after **that** could be translated as a direct quotation. That would make a second-level direct quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. Alternate translation: "the sons of Israel, 'Turn and camp before the face of Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, before the face of Baal Zephon.'" (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

You are to camp (ULT)

Set up your tents (UST)

Here, **you** is plural and refers to Moses and the Israelites. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

ULT

² "Say to [the sons of Israel](#) that they should turn and camp before the face of Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, before the face of Baal Zephon. You are to camp by the sea opposite it.

UST

² "Tell [the Israelites](#) to turn toward Pi Hahiroth and camp near it. That place is between Migdol and the {Red} Sea, near Baal Zephon. Set up your tents there, close to the sea.

Exodus 14:3

And Pharaoh will say about the sons of Israel, 'They are confused in the land. The wilderness has closed in on them (ULT)

When the king knows you have done that, he will think, 'The Israelites are lost. They are wandering around, and the desert blocks their path (UST)

If it would be more natural in your language, you could express this as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: "Pharaoh will say that the Israelites are confused in the land, and the wilderness has closed in on them" (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

**The wilderness has closed in on them (ULT)
and the desert blocks their path (UST)**

Pharaoh speaks of **the wilderness** as a person who has trapped the Israelites. If this might be confusing for your readers, you could express this meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "It is as if the wilderness is closing in on them." (See: [Personification](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Pharaoh](#)
- [about the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [in the land](#)
- [The wilderness](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [When the king knows you have done that, he](#)
- [The Israelites...They](#)
- [The Israelites...They](#)
- [around](#)
- [the desert](#)

ULT

³ And [Pharaoh](#) will say [about the sons of Israel](#), 'They are confused [in the land](#). [The wilderness](#) has closed in on them.'

UST

³ [When the king knows you have done that, he](#) will think, 'The [Israelites](#) are lost. [They](#) are wandering [around](#), and [the desert](#) blocks their path.'

Exodus 14:4

And I will strengthen the heart of Pharaoh (ULT)

I will make the king stubborn again (UST)

This means God will make him stubborn. His stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were **strong**. If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in [4:21](#). Alternate translation: "But I will cause Pharaoh to be stubborn" (See: [Metaphor](#))

and he will pursue after them (ULT) and he will chase you {with his army} (UST)

Alternate translation: "and Pharaoh will pursue the Israelites"

And I will be glorified (ULT) Then people will revere me (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "And people will glorify me" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

And I will be glorified because of Pharaoh and because of all his army (ULT) Then people will revere me more than the king and his army (UST)

Yahweh is leaving out some of the words that a sentence would need in many languages to be complete. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. Alternate translation: "And I will be glorified because of what I do to Pharaoh and to all his army" (See: [Ellipsis](#))

And they did so (ULT) So Moses told the Israelites that,} and they did what he told them to do (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express what **they did** explicitly. Alternate translation: "So the Israelites turned and camped as Yahweh had instructed them" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And I will strengthen](#)
- [the heart of](#)
- [And I will be glorified](#)
- [because of Pharaoh](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [And...will know](#)
- [I am Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [I will make...stubborn again](#)

ULT

⁴ [And I will strengthen the heart of Pharaoh](#), and he will pursue after them. [And I will be glorified because of Pharaoh](#) and because of all his army. [And the Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh.](#)" And they did so.

UST

⁴ [I will make the king stubborn again](#) and he will chase you {with his army}. [Then people will revere me more than the king](#) and his army, and [the Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh.](#)" {So Moses told the Israelites that,} and they did what he told them to do.

- I will make...stubborn again
- Then people will revere me
- more than the king
- the Egyptians
- and...will know
- I am Yahweh

Exodus 14:5

**And the king of Egypt was told (ULT)
When someone told the king of Egypt (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "Then someone told the king of Egypt" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**fled (ULT)
had escaped (UST)**

Alternate translation: "had run away"

**and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants
was turned to the people (ULT)
he and his officials changed how they were
thinking about them (UST)**

Here, **heart** refers to their attitudes toward the Israelites. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "and Pharaoh and his servants changed their attitude about the people" (See: [Metonymy](#))

**and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned to the people (ULT)
he and his officials changed how they were thinking about them (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "and Pharaoh and his servants turned their hearts to the people" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**to the people (ULT)
about them (UST)**

Alternate translation: "against the Israelites"

**What is this we did that we released Israel from our slavery (ULT)
What have we done? The Israelites will no longer be our slaves because we
let them go (UST)**

They asked this question to show they thought they had done a foolish thing. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "We should not have let the Israelites go free from working for us!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

ULT

⁵ And [the king of Egypt](#) was told that [the people](#) fled, and [the heart of Pharaoh and his servants](#) was turned to [the people](#). And they said, "What is this we did that we released [Israel from our slavery](#)?"

UST

⁵ When someone told [the king of Egypt](#) that [the Israelites](#) had escaped, [he and his officials](#) changed how they were thinking about [them](#) and said, "What have we done? [The Israelites will no longer be our slaves](#) because we let [them](#) go!"

Israel (ULT)**The Israelites...them (UST)**

This is a collective singular noun. If your language would not refer to a group of people in this way, you may need to translate it as plural. Alternate translation: “the Israelites” (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the king of
- Egypt
- the people
- the people
- the heart of
- Pharaoh
- and his servants
- from our slavery
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- the king of Egypt
- the king of Egypt
- the Israelites
- them
- he
- and his officials
- will no longer be our slaves
- changed how they were thinking
- The Israelites...them

Exodus 14:6

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- his chariot
- his people

Translation Words - UST

- So the king had...someone} fasten his horses to his chariot
- he rode out with his army

ULT

⁶ And he hitched his chariot and took his people with him.

UST

⁶ So the king had {someone} fasten his horses to his chariot and he rode out with his army.

Exodus 14:7**600 (ULT)****600 (UST)**

Alternate translation: "six hundred" (See: [Numbers](#))

and third men (ULT)**a driver, a soldier, and} a commander (UST)**

The precise meaning of this term is not known. Alternate translations: "and officers" or "and shield-bearers" or "and three men"

Translation Words - ULT

- [chariots](#)
- [the chariots of](#)
- [Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Egypt's](#)
- [chariots](#)
- [chariots](#)

ULT

⁷ And he took 600 chosen [chariots](#), and all of [the chariots of Egypt](#), and third men were on all of them.

UST

⁷ {When he left} he took all [Egypt's chariots](#), including the best 600 [chariots](#). In each chariot {he placed a driver, a soldier, and} a commander.

Exodus 14:8

And Yahweh strengthened the heart of Pharaoh (ULT)

Yahweh made the king of Egypt stubborn... and his army (UST)

This means God made him stubborn. His stubborn attitude is spoken of as if his **heart** were “strong.” If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person’s will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in 4:21. Alternate translation: “And Yahweh caused Pharaoh to be stubborn” (See: [Metaphor](#))

with a high hand (ULT) confidently (UST)

Alternate translation: “boldly” or “defiantly”

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- And...strengthened
- with a...hand
- the heart of
- Pharaoh
- king of
- Egypt
- the sons of
- and the sons of
- Israel
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- made...stubborn
- the Israelites
- The Israelites
- the Israelites
- The Israelites
- confidently
- made...stubborn
- the king of Egypt...and his army
- the king of Egypt...and his army
- the king of Egypt...and his army

ULT

⁸ And Yahweh strengthened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he pursued after the sons of Israel, and the sons of Israel were going out with a high hand.

UST

⁸ Yahweh made the king of Egypt stubborn, so he {and his army} chased the Israelites. The Israelites marched out confidently.

Exodus 14:9

all of the horses of the chariots of Pharaoh and his horsemen and his army (ULT)

The Egyptian army...with all the king's horses and chariots and horsemen (UST)

It is unclear exactly what the groupings are here. **Horses of the chariots** (probably meaning "horse-drawn chariots") and **horsemen** could be two groups or two references to the same group. **Army** could mean another group, perhaps on foot (see [15:19](#)), or it could be a summary grouping. Furthermore, most translations render **horses of the chariots** as "horses and chariots," suggesting four total groups (possibly because of [v. 23](#)). Alternate translation: "all the horse-drawn chariots of Pharaoh and his horsemen and his foot soldiers"

them (ULT)

with them (UST)

Here, **them** refers to the Israelites. Alternate translation: "the Israelites" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Pi Hahiroth...Baal Zephon (ULT)

Pi Hahiroth...Baal Zephon (UST)

These are places on Egypt's eastern border. See how you translated them in [Exodus 14:2](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Egyptians](#)
- [the horses of](#)
- [the chariots of](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [and his horsemen](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The Egyptian army](#)
- [the king's](#)
- [horses](#)
- [and chariots](#)
- [and horsemen](#)

ULT

⁹ And [the Egyptians](#) pursued after them. And all of [the horses of the chariots of Pharaoh and his horsemen](#) and his army overtook them camping above the sea, above Pi Hahiroth before the face of Baal Zephon.

UST

⁹ [The Egyptian army](#), with all [the king's horses and chariots and horsemen](#), chased after the Israelites. They caught up with them as they were camped near the sea, close to Pi Hahiroth, in front of Baal Zephon.

Exodus 14:10

And Pharaoh approached (ULT)

When the king's army got near (UST)

Here, **Pharaoh** represents the entire Egyptian army. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. Alternate translation: "Then Pharaoh and his army approached" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

and the sons of Israel lifted their eyes (ULT)

the Israelite people...to see (UST)

Alternate translation: "and the sons of Israel looked up" or "and the sons of Israel looked back"

and behold (ULT)

were surprised (UST)

Here, **behold** is used to draw attention to alarming information that follows. Use a word, phrase, or structure in your language that indicates that the next information is very alarming.

Translation Words - ULT

- [And Pharaoh](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [the sons of \(2\)](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [and they were...afraid](#)
- [And...cried](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [When the king's army](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [they \(2\)](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [they](#)
- [that the Egyptians](#)
- [They were terrified](#)
- [so...cried out...to help them](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

¹⁰ [And Pharaoh](#) approached, and [the sons of Israel](#) lifted their eyes, and behold, [the Egyptians](#) started after them, [and they were](#) extremely [afraid](#). And [the sons of Israel](#) cried to [Yahweh](#).

UST

¹⁰ [When the king's army](#) got near, [the Israelite people](#) were surprised to see [that the Egyptians](#) were marching toward them. [They were terrified](#), so they [cried out](#) to [Yahweh](#) to help them.

Exodus 14:11

Is it because there were not any graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness (ULT)

by bringing us out...Egypt. {Pharaoh's army is going to} kill us here in the wilderness. {If we had stayed in...someone would have buried us in graves (UST)}

The Israelites ask this question to express their frustration and fear of dying. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way.

Alternate translation: "There were plenty of graveyards in Egypt for us to be buried in. You did not have to take us into the wilderness to die!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

What is this you have done to us, to bring us out from Egypt (ULT)

You have not helped us...by bringing us out...of...Egypt (UST)

The Israelites ask this question to rebuke Moses for bringing them to the desert to die. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "You should not have endangered us like this by bringing us out of Egypt!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [graves](#)
- [in Egypt](#)
- [from Egypt](#)
- [to die](#)
- [in the wilderness](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Egypt...in](#)
- [of...Egypt](#)
- [Pharaoh's army is going to} kill us](#)
- [here in the wilderness](#)
- [If we had stayed...someone would have buried us in graves](#)

ULT

¹¹ And they said to [Moses](#), "Is it because there were not any [graves in Egypt](#) that you have taken us away [to die in the wilderness](#)? What is this you have done to us, to bring us out [from Egypt](#)?"

UST

¹¹ Then they said to [Moses](#), "You have not helped us by bringing us out of [Egypt](#). [{Pharaoh's army is going to} kill us here in the wilderness](#). [{If we had stayed in Egypt,} someone would have buried us in graves](#)."

Exodus 14:12

Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt (ULT)

That is what we told you when we were in Egypt (UST)

The Israelites ask this question to emphasize that this is what they had told Moses. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "This is exactly what we told you while we were in Egypt" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

in Egypt, saying, 'Cease from us and let us serve the Egyptians (ULT)

we were in Egypt. We said, 'Leave us alone, and let us work for the Egyptians (UST)

If it would be more natural in your language, you could express the portion following **saying** as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: "in Egypt? We told you to leave us alone so we could serve the Egyptians." (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [in Egypt](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [and let us serve](#)
- [serving](#)
- [is better](#)
- [than dying](#)
- [in the wilderness](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [we were in Egypt](#)
- [for the Egyptians](#)
- [for the Egyptians](#)
- [and let us work](#)
- [to be slaves](#)
- [better](#)
- [than to die](#)
- [here in the desert](#)

ULT

¹² Is this not the word that we spoke to you [in Egypt](#), saying, 'Cease from us [and let us serve the Egyptians](#)'? Because [serving the Egyptians is better](#) to us [than dying in the wilderness](#)."

UST

¹² That is what we told you when [we were in Egypt](#). We said, 'Leave us alone, [and let us work for the Egyptians](#).' It would have been [better](#) for us [to be slaves for the Egyptians than to die here in the desert!](#)"

Exodus 14:13

and see the salvation of Yahweh, that he will do for you today (ULT)

and see how Yahweh will rescue you. He will save you today (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **salvation**, you can express the same idea in another way. Alternate translation: "and see what Yahweh will do for you today, he will save you" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

you will not repeat seeing again until eternity (ULT)

will never see...you...again (UST)

This statement is very extended for emphasis on its certainty. Alternate translation: "you will not see them again forever"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [the people](#)
- [You must...fear](#)
- [the salvation of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [today](#)
- [today](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [eternity](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the people](#)
- [Do...be afraid](#)
- [Yahweh...He](#)
- [will rescue...will save](#)
- [today](#)
- [today](#)
- [never](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)

ULT

¹³ And [Moses](#) said to [the people](#), "You must not [fear](#)! Stand still and see [the salvation of Yahweh](#), that he will do for you [today](#). For [the Egyptians](#) whom you see [today](#) you will not repeat seeing again until [eternity](#)."

UST

¹³ [Moses](#) said to [the people](#), "Do not [be afraid](#)! Stand strong and see how [Yahweh will rescue](#) you. [He will save](#) you [today](#), and you will [never](#) see [the Egyptians](#) that you are looking at [today](#) again."

Exodus 14:14**Yahweh himself will fight (ULT)****Yahweh will fight (UST)**

The form **Yahweh himself** emphasizes what Yahweh will do in contrast to what the Israelites will do. Use a way that is natural in your language to indicate this emphasis. Alternate translation: "As for Yahweh, he will fight" (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

you will be silent (ULT)**Just stay calm. There is nothing else that you will have to do (UST)**

Here, **silent** could mean "still." The Israelites' lack of action is in contrast to Yahweh's fighting. It is not a total lack of motion or sound. Alternate translation: "you will not fight"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

¹⁴ [Yahweh](#) himself will fight for you. As for you, you will be silent."

UST

¹⁴ [Yahweh](#) will fight for you! Just stay calm. There is nothing else that you will have to do."

Exodus 14:15

Why are you crying out to me (ULT) Instead of asking me to help you (UST)

Moses apparently had been praying to God for help, so God uses this question to compel Moses to act. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "Do not call out to me any longer, Moses." (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [are you crying out](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Instead of asking...to help you](#)
- [the people](#)
- [the people](#)

ULT

¹⁵ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Why are you crying out to me? Speak to [the sons of Israel](#) and let them start moving."

UST

¹⁵ Then [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Instead of asking me to help you, tell [the people](#) to pack their tents and prepare to march."

Exodus 14:16

raise your staff and reach out your hand (ULT)
lift up your staff and stretch out the hand
holding it (UST)

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding **hand** and **staff**.

and split it (ULT)
to cause it to divide (UST)

Alternate translation: "and divide the sea into two parts"

Translation Words - ULT

- your staff
- your hand
- the sons of
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- your staff
- the hand holding it
- the Israelites
- the Israelites

ULT

¹⁶ As for you, raise **your staff** and reach out **your hand** over the sea and split it. And **the sons of Israel** will enter into the midst of the sea on dry ground.

UST

¹⁶ You must lift up **your staff** and stretch out **the hand holding it** over the sea to cause it to divide. Then **the Israelites** will go in the middle of the sea, walking on dry ground.

Exodus 14:17

And behold me (ULT) Watch me (UST)

Here, **behold me** is an expression meant to focus the attention of the listener on what the speaker is about to say. In this case, Yahweh is drawing attention to his next actions. Alternate translation: "Look at what I will do"

I will strengthen the heart of the Egyptians (ULT)

I will make the Egyptians stubborn (UST)

This means that God will make them stubborn. Their stubborn attitude is spoken of as if their **hearts** were "strong." If the **heart** is not the body part your culture uses to refer to a person's will, consider using whichever organ your culture would use for this image. See how you translated this in [4:21](#). Alternate translation: "I will cause the Egyptians to be stubborn" (See: [Metaphor](#))

and they will enter after them (ULT) so that they will chase the Israelites (UST)

Alternate translation: "so that the Egyptians will go into the sea after the Israelites"

And I will be glorified because of Pharaoh and because of all his army, because of his chariots and because of his horsemen (ULT) Then, because of what I will do to the king, his army, his chariots, and his horsemen, people will revere me (UST)

Yahweh is leaving out some of the words that a sentence would need in many languages to be complete. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. See how you translated a similar phrase in [verse 4](#) Alternate translation: "And I will be glorified because of what I do to Pharaoh, all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen" (See: [Ellipsis](#))

And I will be glorified (ULT) Then, because of what I will do...people will revere me (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "And people will glorify me" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [I will strengthen](#)
- [the heart of](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [And I will be glorified](#)
- [because of Pharaoh](#)
- [because of his chariots](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And behold me! [I will strengthen the heart of the Egyptians](#), and they will enter after them. [And I will be glorified because of Pharaoh](#) and because of all his army, [because of his chariots and because of his horsemen](#).

UST

¹⁷ Watch me! [I will make the Egyptians stubborn](#) so that they will chase the Israelites. [Then, because of what I will do to the king, his army, his chariots, and his horsemen, people will revere me](#).

- and because of his horsemen

Translation Words - UST

- I will make
- the Egyptians
- stubborn
- Then, because of what I will do...people will revere me
- to the king
- his chariots
- and his horsemen

Exodus 14:18

when I am glorified (ULT)

When I have won a glorious victory (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “when I cause people to glorify me” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

when I am glorified because of Pharaoh, because of his chariots and because of his horsemen (ULT)

When I have won a glorious victory over the king, his chariots, and his horsemen (UST)

Yahweh is leaving out some of the words that a sentence would need in many languages to be complete. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. See how you translated a similar phrase in [verse 4](#) Alternate translation: “when I get glory because of what I do to Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen” or “when I show my glory by what I do to Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Egyptians](#)
- [And...will know](#)
- [I am Yahweh](#)
- [when I am glorified](#)
- [because of Pharaoh](#)
- [because of his chariots](#)
- [and because of his horsemen](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [When I have won a glorious victory](#)
- [over the king](#)
- [his chariots](#)
- [and his horsemen](#)
- [the {other} Egyptians](#)
- [will know](#)
- [I am Yahweh, {the God who can do anything}](#)

ULT

¹⁸ And [the Egyptians will know](#) that I am Yahweh [when I am glorified because of Pharaoh, because of his chariots and because of his horsemen.](#)”

UST

¹⁸ [When I have won a glorious victory over the king, his chariots, and his horsemen, the {other} Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh, {the God who can do anything}.](#)”

Exodus 14:19

before the face of the camp of...from before their face (ULT)

who had been in front of...that had been in front of them (UST)

Here, **face** means “front.” Alternate translation: “in front of the camp of ... from in front of them” (See: [Metonymy](#))

the pillar of cloud (ULT)

The tall, bright cloud (UST)

See how you translated this in [13:21](#).

Israel (ULT)

the Israelites (UST)

This is a collective singular noun. If your language would not refer to a group of people in this way, you may need to translate it as plural. Alternate translation: “the Israelites” (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the angel of
- God
- before the face of
- from before their face
- Israel
- the pillar of

Translation Words - UST

- the angel of
- God
- who had been in front of
- that had been in front of them
- the Israelites
- The tall, bright

ULT

¹⁹ And the angel of God moved, who traveled before the face of the camp of Israel and went behind them. And the pillar of cloud moved from before their face and stood behind them.

UST

¹⁹ Then the angel of God, who had been in front of the Israelites, moved and went behind them. The tall, bright cloud that had been in front of them also moved to be behind them.

Exodus 14:20

Israel (ULT) the Israelites (UST)

This is a collective singular noun. If your language would not refer to a group of people in this way, you may need to translate it as plural.
Alternate translation: “the Israelites” (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

And it became a cloud, and darkness, and it lit up the night (ULT) The cloud caused...to be in the darkness, but it gave light to the Israelites (UST)

Alternate translation: “And the cloud became dark on one side and light on the other side all night”

Translation Words - ULT

- [Egypt](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [and darkness](#)
- [and it lit up](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Egyptian army...the Egyptian army](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [to be in the darkness](#)
- [but it gave light to the Israelites](#)

ULT

²⁰ And it came between the camp of [Egypt](#) and the camp of [Israel](#). And it became a cloud, [and darkness](#), [and it lit up](#) the night, and one did not come near to the other all night.

UST

²⁰ The cloud was between [the Egyptian army](#) and [the Israelites](#). The cloud caused [the Egyptian army to be in the darkness](#), [but it gave light to the Israelites](#). As a result, neither group could come near the other group during the whole night.

Exodus 14:21

And Moses reached out his hand over the sea (ULT)

Moses stretched out his hand over the sea (UST)

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

by a...east wind (ULT)

a...wind from the east (UST)

An **east wind** originates in the east and blows towards the west.

And the waters were divided (ULT)

and pushed...the water...apart (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "And Yahweh divided the waters" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [his hand](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [strong](#)
- [the waters](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [his hand](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [strong](#)
- [the water](#)

ULT

²¹ And [Moses](#) reached out [his hand](#) over the sea. And [Yahweh](#) drove the sea by a [strong](#) east wind all night and made the sea into dry land. And [the waters](#) were divided.

UST

²¹ [Moses](#) stretched out [his hand](#) over the sea. Then [Yahweh](#) sent a [strong](#) wind from the east. It blew all night and pushed [the water](#) apart, and it caused the land between the water to dry up.

Exodus 14:22

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the sons of
- Israel
- And the waters

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- The water

ULT

²² And [the sons of Israel](#) entered the middle of the sea on dry ground. And [the waters](#) were a wall for them on their right and on their left.

UST

²² Then [the Israelites](#) went on the dry land in the middle of the sea. [The water](#) was like a wall on each side of them, on the right side and on the left side.

Exodus 14:23

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the Egyptians
- horse of
- Pharaoh
- his chariots
- and his horsemen

Translation Words - UST

- the Egyptian army
- the Egyptian army
- with their horses
- chariots
- and horsemen

ULT

²³ And the Egyptians pursued, and entered after them—every horse of Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen—into the middle of the sea.

UST

²³ Then the Egyptian army went after them into the middle of the sea with their horses, chariots, and horsemen.

Exodus 14:24**in the watch of the morning (ULT)
Just before dawn (UST)**

This is the last third of the night. It is approximately the three hours before sunrise. Alternate translation: “very early in the morning” or “in the time before the sun rises” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

**through the pillar of fire and cloud (ULT)
from the fiery cloud (UST)**

See how you translated this in [13:21](#).

**the camp of the Egyptians...the camp of...the
Egyptians (ULT)
the Egyptian army...the...Egyptian...army (UST)**

Alternate translation: “the army of the Egyptians ... the army of the Egyptians”

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [through the pillar of](#)
- [fire](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [from the fiery cloud](#)
- [from the fiery cloud](#)
- [Egyptian](#)
- [Egyptian](#)

ULT

²⁴ And so it was, in the watch of the morning, [Yahweh](#) looked down on the camp of [the Egyptians through the pillar of fire](#) and cloud. And he confused the camp of [the Egyptians](#).

UST

²⁴ Just before dawn, [Yahweh](#) looked down [from the fiery cloud](#), and then he caused the [Egyptian](#) army to panic.

Exodus 14:25

from the face of Israel (ULT) from them (UST)

Here, **the face of Israel** means the presence of Israel. See the UST.
(See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [their chariots](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [against Egypt](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the chariots](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [against us](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [from them](#)

ULT

²⁵ And he caused the wheels of [their chariots](#) to turn aside and caused them to drive heavily. And [the Egyptians](#) said, "Let us run from the face of [Israel](#), for [Yahweh](#) is fighting for them [against Egypt](#)."

UST

²⁵ He caused the wheels of [the chariots](#) to get stuck in the ground so that they could hardly move. So [the Egyptians](#) said, "[Yahweh](#) is fighting for the Israelites [against us](#); we must escape [from them](#)!"

Exodus 14:26

And Yahweh said to Moses, “Reach out your hand over the sea, and the waters will return on the Egyptians, on his chariots, and on his horsemen (ULT)

Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Stretch out your arm over the sea. Then the water will come back on the Egyptians, on their chariots, and their horsemen (UST)

If it would be more natural in your language, you could express this as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: “Yahweh told Moses to reach out with his hand over the sea so that the waters would come back onto the Egyptians, their chariots, and their horsemen.” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Reach out your hand over the sea (ULT)
Stretch out your arm over the sea (UST)

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

on his chariots, and on his horsemen (ULT)
on their chariots, and their horsemen (UST)

Here, **his** refers to Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Alternate translation: “on Pharaoh’s chariots and on Pharaoh’s horsemen” (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- your hand
- the waters
- and...will return
- the Egyptians
- his chariots
- his horsemen

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- your arm
- the water
- Then...will come back
- the Egyptians
- their chariots
- their horsemen

ULT

²⁶ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Reach out **your hand** over the sea, and **the waters will return** on **the Egyptians**, on **his chariots**, and on **his horsemen**.”

UST

²⁶ Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Stretch out **your arm** over the sea. Then **the water will come back** on **the Egyptians**, on **their chariots**, and **their horsemen**.”

Exodus 14:27

And Moses reached out his hand over the sea (ULT)

So Moses stretched out his arm above the sea (UST)

See note in the introduction to chapter 8 regarding the hand and staff.

before the face of the morning (ULT)
just before dawn (UST)

Here, **before the face of** means “before the occurrence of.” If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “before it was morning” (See: [Metonymy](#))

And Yahweh shook off the Egyptians in the middle of the sea (ULT)
but Yahweh hurled them back into the sea (UST)

Here, Yahweh is pictured as acting toward the Egyptians as if they were dirt or dust on his clothing that he shakes to be rid of them. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “and Yahweh threw the Egyptians back into the middle of the sea” (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [his hand](#)
- [and...returned](#)
- [and the Egyptians](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [his arm](#)
- [and...returned](#)
- [The Egyptians](#)
- [them](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

²⁷ And [Moses](#) reached out [his hand](#) over the sea, and the sea [returned](#) before the face of the morning to its normal place, [and the Egyptians](#) fled before its impact. And [Yahweh](#) shook off [the Egyptians](#) in the middle of the sea.

UST

²⁷ So [Moses](#) stretched out [his arm](#) above the sea, and the water [returned](#) to its normal level just before dawn. [The Egyptians](#) tried to escape, but [Yahweh](#) hurled [them](#) back into the sea.

Exodus 14:28

Not even one of them remained (ULT) Every one of the Egyptians died (UST)

This negative statement is meant to strongly convey the idea that all the Egyptians were gone. If this is confusing in your language, you can express the meaning positively. Alternate translation: "Every one of them was gone" (See: [Litotes](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the waters](#)
- [And...returned](#)
- [the chariots](#)
- [and the horsemen](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The water](#)
- [returned](#)
- [the chariots](#)
- [the horsemen](#)
- [Egyptian](#)

ULT

²⁸ And [the waters returned](#), and they covered [the chariots and the horsemen](#), even the entire army of [Pharaoh](#) that entered after them into the sea. Not even one of them remained.

UST

²⁸ [The water returned](#) and covered [the chariots, the horsemen](#), and the whole [Egyptian](#) army that had tried to follow the Israelites into the sea. Every one of the Egyptians died.

Exodus 14:29

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- And the sons of
- Israel
- walked
- And the waters

Translation Words - UST

- But the Israelites
- But the Israelites
- had already crossed...walking
- The water was

ULT

²⁹ And the sons of Israel walked on dry land in the middle of the sea. And the waters were a wall for them on their right and on their left.

UST

²⁹ But the Israelites had already crossed through the sea by walking on dry ground. The water was like two walls, one on the right side and one on the left side.

Exodus 14:30**Israel (ULT)
the Israelites (UST)**

This is a collective singular noun. If your language would not refer to a group of people in this way, you may need to translate it as plural.
Alternate translation: “the Israelites” (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

**from the hand of Egypt (ULT)
from the Egyptian army (UST)**

Here, **hand** refers to power. Alternate translation: “from the Egyptians’ power” (See: [Metonymy](#))

**on the shore of the sea (ULT)
Their bodies washed up on the shore (UST)**

Alternate translation: “on the land along the edge of the sea”

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [And...saved](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [day](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [dead](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [That is the way...saved](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [The Israelites](#)
- [the Egyptian army](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [on...day](#)
- [lying dead](#)

ULT

³⁰ And [Yahweh](#) saved [Israel](#) that [day](#) from the hand of [Egypt](#), and [Israel](#) saw [the Egyptians dead](#) on the shore of the sea.

UST

³⁰ [That is the way](#) [Yahweh](#) saved the [Israelites](#) from the [Egyptian army](#) on that [day](#). [The Israelites](#) saw [the Egyptians lying dead](#). Their bodies washed up on the shore.

Exodus 14:31

Israel (ULT)

The Israelites (UST)

This is a collective singular noun. If your language would not refer to a group of people in this way, you may need to translate it as plural. Alternate translation: “the Israelites” (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

the great hand (ULT)

powerfully (UST)

Here, **hand** refers to power. Alternate translation: “the great power” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Israel
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- Yahweh...in
- his servant
- against the Egyptians
- the people
- and...feared
- and they believed
- and in...Moses

Translation Words - UST

- The Israelites
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- to the Egyptians
- they
- and...revered
- They trusted
- his servant
- and...Moses

ULT

³¹ And **Israel** saw the great hand that **Yahweh** used **against the Egyptians**, and **the people** feared **Yahweh**, and they believed in **Yahweh** and in his servant **Moses**.

UST

³¹ **The Israelites** saw what **Yahweh** powerfully did **to the Egyptians**, and they revered **Yahweh**. They trusted **Yahweh** and **his servant Moses**.

Exodus 15

Exodus 15 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

Verses 1b-18 and 21b of chapter 15 are poetry. They are a song of praise to Yahweh because he defeated and destroyed the Egyptian army ([Exodus 14:26-28](#)). Translating poetry should be done by someone who is a skilled poet in the target language. Because the forms of poetry are so different in different languages, a translation that is good poetry in the target language may seem very different from the original poem. The structure may look quite different. The poet will be well served by looking at the entire poem from multiple perspectives. He will need to know the meaning of the poem, the themes and discourse structure of the poem, and the feelings that the poem is supposed to create in the reader at each point (UST, tNotes). He will need to understand how that was accomplished by the original form and structure (ULT). Then he will need to compose the translated poem using forms and structures that have the same or similar meaning, themes, discourse elements, and feelings in his own language. Unlike in many other places, most notes in this chapter will not advise towards expressing meaning in non-figurative ways or combining parallel phrases as that advice would be too simplistic for handling poetry.

Structure

This song follows a basic AB structure which is given to us in verse 1b-c and 21b-c:

- A - praise to Yahweh - he is magnificent (expressed in various words)
- B - because he defeats our enemies

The song can be divided into three major sections, each of which is patterned as: AB(a)b. Each section starts with an AB portion which is characterized by fewer verbal forms (especially the A portion). The section then elaborates on each. Note that there are other possible analyses of the structure of the poem.

Here is an outline of the structure according to this model:

- Section 1 (see alternate breakdown below):
 - 1b: A "Let me sing to Yahweh, for he has triumphantly triumphed;"
 - 1c: B "the horse and the one riding it he threw into the sea."
 - 2-3: a
 - 4-5: b
- Section 2:
 - 6a: A
 - 6b: B
 - 7a: a "And in the abundance of your majesty"
 - 7a-10: b "you overthrow those who rise up against you ... "
- Section 3:
 - 11: A
 - 12: B
 - 13a: a (possibly) "In your covenant loyalty"
 - 13a-17: b
 - 18: finale

Alternate breakdown of section 1: it is possible to view 1b-c as the introduction and divide verse 2 such that:

- 2a: A "Yah is my strength and my song"
- 2b: B "and he has become my salvation"

- 2c-3: a
- 4-5: b

Themes:

There are several images and themes that are throughout the song as well as some that are throughout an individual section.

- “High” versus “low”: Yahweh is high, while his enemies are low.
- The following words are all related to the idea of being high or rising up: **triumph** (v1), **exalt** (v2), **majestic** (v6, v11), **majesty** (v7), and **the mountain of** \[Yahweh’s] **possession** (v17). In the last case, Yahweh’s people are brought to a high place with him.
- In contrast, his enemies are low. Note in [verse 7](#), Yahweh overthrows those who **rise up against** \[him\]. Ideas of being low are as follows: **sank** (v4, v10), **deeps** (v5), **descended into the depths** (v5), **melted away** (v15), and **fall on them** (v16).
- The strength of Yahweh in [verses 2, 6, and 13](#).
- The effectiveness of Yahweh’s hand versus the enemy’s hand. Yahweh’s hand (and arm) is effective in [verses 6, 12, 16, and 17](#) but the enemy’s hand is ineffective despite his boasting in [verse 9](#).
- There is parallel imagery near the end of each section. The enemy is compared three times by simile to a heavy, inert object. In [verses 5 and 16](#) that is a **stone**, in [verse 10](#) that is **lead**.
- More parallel imagery occurs at the end of sections one (v5) and two (v10): that of the enemy sinking in the water and being covered by it.
- In sections two and three the water (v8) and the other peoples (v16) are made still by Yahweh.
- Section two begins and ends with **majestic** (v6, v10) and that word is picked up in the beginning of section three (v11).
- In section two (v9), the enemies seek to **dispossess** (or disinherit) the Israelites; in section three (v16), the Israelites come to live in the land of Yahweh’s **possession** (or inheritance).
- In [verse 11](#), three themes for the third section are introduced. These are each expanded on in that section.
- **Holiness** occurs again in [verses 13 and 16](#)
- **Fear** is vividly described in [verses 14-16](#) (shake, terror, panic, trembling, melted away, dread)
- Yahweh **does miracles** to protect and build a home for his people
- [Verses 14-16a](#) are a chiasm, a complex parallel structure where concepts are repeated in reverse order:
 - A: 14a: peoples (nations) *become* afraid
 - B: 14b: *inhabitants* of Philistia are afraid
 - C: 15a: *rulers* of Edom are afraid
 - C’: 15b: *rulers* of Moab are afraid
 - B’: 15c: *inhabitants* of Canaan are afraid
 - A’: 16a: people *become* afraid
- In section three, there is another parallel structure:
 - v13: you led this people => v16: your people pass by
 - v13: this people you redeemed => v16: this people you acquired (or purchased or ransomed)
 - v13: you led them to the home => v17: you will bring them ... \[to\] the place ... you made
 - v13: of your holiness => v17: the Holy Place

Special Concepts in this Chapter

The Israelite’s discontent

In [verse 24](#) the word **murmur** is introduced for the first time. This is a very strong term for “grumble” or “complain” that is used to describe the Israelites’ attitude throughout their time in the wilderness. It occurs several times in Exodus and Numbers.

Yahweh's laws

In verses [24-26](#), there is an introductory revelation of the requirement that Israel keep the covenant by obeying the law of Moses. (See: [law](#), [law of Moses](#), [law of Yahweh](#), [law of God](#) and [reveal](#), [revealed](#), [revelation](#))

Exodus 15:1

he has triumphantly triumphed (ULT)
he has won a great victory (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could state explicitly over whom Yahweh triumphed. Alternate translation: “he has achieved a glorious victory over the army of Egypt” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

he has triumphantly triumphed (ULT)
he has won a great victory (UST)

Alternate translation: “he is highly exalted” or “he is extremely high” or “he is exaltedly exalted”

the horse and the one riding it he threw into the sea (ULT)

He has thrown the horses and the charioteers into the sea (UST)

Moses sang about God causing the sea to cover and drown the horse and rider as if God had thrown them **into the sea**. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “he has made the horse and rider drown in the sea” (See: [Metaphor](#))

the horse and the one riding it (ULT)
the horses and the charioteers (UST)

This refers to many or all of the Egyptian horses and riders that were chasing the Israelites. Alternate translation: “the horses and their riders” (See: [Generic Noun Phrases](#))

and the one riding it (ULT)
and the charioteers (UST)

Here, **rider** could either refer to a person who sits on a horse or who travels in a chariot that a horse is pulling.

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [and the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [the horse](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [and all the Israelites](#)
- [and all the Israelites](#)

ULT

¹ Then [Moses and the sons of Israel](#) sang this song [to Yahweh](#). And they said, saying, “Let me sing [to Yahweh](#), for he has triumphantly triumphed; [the horse](#) and the one riding it he threw into the sea.

UST

¹ Then [Moses and all the Israelites](#) sang this song [to Yahweh](#). They each sang, “I will sing [to Yahweh](#) because he has won a great victory; He has thrown [the horses](#) and the charioteers into the sea!

- to Yahweh
- to Yahweh
- the horses

Exodus 15:2

my strength...Yah is (ULT) makes me strong...Yahweh (UST)

Moses is expressing the help that he gets from Yahweh by equating Yahweh with **strength**. Use a form or metaphor from your language that would express Yahweh's strengthening help. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "Yah is the one who gives me strength" or "Yah is the strong one who protects me" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Yah is...and my song (ULT) Yahweh...and I will sing about him (UST)

Moses calls Yahweh his **song** because Yahweh is the one he sings about or because Yahweh causes him to sing. Use a form or metaphor from your language that would express Yahweh being a song of joy. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "Yah is ... the one I sing about" or "Yah ... makes me sing joyfully" (See: [Metaphor](#))

and he has become my salvation (ULT) He has saved me (UST)

Moses calls Yahweh his salvation because Yahweh saved him. Use a form or metaphor from your language that would express Yahweh's saving power. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "and he has saved me" or "and he is the one who saves me" (See: [Metaphor](#))

This is my God, and I will glorify him, the God of my father, and I will exalt him (ULT) He is my God, and I will celebrate {because of what he did for me}. He was my father's God, and I will tell others how great he is (UST)

These lines are expressing very similar ideas for emphasis. If that is a normal way to make an emphatic (poetic) statement or if it would be understood in your language, you could translate in a similar way. If, however, repetition like this would create a different meaning, find a structure in your language that would fit. (See: [Parallelism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yah is](#)
- [my strength](#)
- [salvation](#)
- [is my God](#)
- [the God of](#)
- [my father](#)
- [and I will exalt him](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [makes me strong](#)
- [He...saved](#)

ULT

² [Yah is my strength](#) and my song, and he has become my [salvation](#). This [is my God](#), and I will glorify him, [the God of my father](#), and I will exalt him.

UST

² [Yahweh makes me strong](#), and I will sing about him. [He has saved me](#). [He is my God](#), and I will celebrate {because of what he did for me}. [He was my father's God](#), and I will tell others how great he is.

- He is my God
- He was my father's God
- He was my father's God
- and I will tell others how great he is

Exodus 15:3

Yahweh is a man of war (ULT)

Yahweh is a warrior (UST)

Moses calls Yahweh a **man of war** because he powerfully fought against the Egyptians and won. Alternate translation: "Yahweh is like a warrior" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh \(2\)](#)
- [is a man of war](#)
- [is his name](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh \(2\)](#)
- [is a warrior](#)
- [is his name](#)

ULT

³ [Yahweh is a man of war; Yahweh is his name.](#)

UST

³ [Yahweh is a warrior; Yahweh is his name.](#)

Exodus 15:4

He threw the chariots of Pharaoh and his army into the sea. And his chosen officers sank in the Sea of Reeds (ULT)

He has thrown the king's chariots and his army into the sea; The king's best officers all drowned in the Red Sea (UST)

These lines are synonymous parallels where the second strengthens what is said in the first. Alternate translation: "He threw all of Pharaoh's army into the sea, including the chariots; even his chosen officers sank in the sea of reeds" (See: [Parallelism](#))

ULT

⁴ He threw [the chariots of Pharaoh](#) and his army into the sea. And his chosen officers sank [in the Sea of Reeds](#).

UST

⁴ He has thrown [the king's chariots](#) and his army into the sea; The king's best officers all drowned [in the Red Sea](#).

He threw the chariots of Pharaoh and his army into the sea (ULT)

He has thrown the king's chariots and his army into the sea (UST)

Moses sings about Yahweh causing the sea to cover Pharaoh's chariots and army as if Yahweh had thrown them **into the sea**. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "He has made Pharaoh's chariot riders and army drown in the sea" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the chariots of](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [in the Sea of Reeds](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the king's chariots](#)
- [the king's chariots](#)
- [in the Red Sea](#)

Exodus 15:5

The deeps cover them; they descended into the depths like a stone (ULT)

The deep water covered them; they sank to the bottom like a rock (UST)

These lines are synonymous parallels where the second clarifies what is said in the first. Alternate translation: "The deeps covered them because they had descended into the depths like a stone" (See: [Parallelism](#))

ULT

⁵ [The deeps](#) cover them; they descended into the depths like a stone.

UST

⁵ [The deep water](#) covered them; they sank to the bottom like a rock.

they descended into the depths like a stone (ULT)
they sank to the bottom like a rock (UST)

This comparison is that just *like a stone* does not float but sinks to the bottom of the sea, the enemy soldiers sank to the bottom of the sea. Alternate translation: "they went down into the deep water like a stone sinking to the bottom of the sea" (See: [Simile](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [The deeps](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The deep water](#)

Exodus 15:6

**Your right hand, Yahweh, is majestic in power;
your right hand, Yahweh, shatters the enemy
(ULT)**

**O Yahweh, your power is immense; with that
power, O Yahweh, you have crushed the
enemy into pieces (UST)**

These lines are synonymous parallels where the second takes the abstract idea in the first and makes it concrete (though still with poetic imagery). Alternate translation: "Yahweh, you show how majestic in power your right hand is by shattering the enemy" (See: [Parallelism](#))

ULT

⁶ Your right hand, [Yahweh](#), is majestic in power; your right hand, [Yahweh](#), shatters [the enemy](#).

UST

⁶ O [Yahweh](#), your power is immense; with that power, O [Yahweh](#), you have crushed [the enemy](#) into pieces.

**Your right hand, Yahweh, is majestic in power; your right hand, Yahweh,
shatters the enemy (ULT)**

**O Yahweh, your power is immense; with that power, O Yahweh, you have
crushed the enemy into pieces (UST)**

Moses speaks of Yahweh as if Yahweh had hands. The **right hand** refers to Yahweh's power or the things Yahweh does powerfully. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "Yahweh, your power is glorious; Yahweh, your power has shattered the enemy" or "Yahweh, what you do is gloriously powerful; Yahweh, by your power you have shattered the enemy" (See: [Metonymy](#))

shatters the enemy (ULT)

you have crushed the enemy into pieces (UST)

Moses speaks of the enemy as if it were fragile and could be **shattered** like glass or pottery. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "completely destroys the enemy" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [is majestic](#)
- [in power](#)
- [the enemy](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [O Yahweh](#)
- [O Yahweh](#)
- [is immense](#)
- [is immense](#)
- [the enemy](#)

Exodus 15:7

**you overthrow those who rise up against you.
You send out your heat; it devours them like
stubble (ULT)
to defeat your enemies. When you are angry,
you destroy them like a fire burns up straw
(UST)**

These lines are synonymous parallels where the second takes the abstract idea in the first portion (**you overthrow those who rise up against you**) and makes it concrete (though still with poetic imagery). Alternate translation: “you overthrow those who rise up against you by sending out your heat to devour them like stubble” (See: [Parallelism](#))

**And in the abundance of your majesty (ULT)
You use your great strength (UST)**

If your language does not use abstract nouns for the ideas of **abundance** and **majesty**, you can express the same idea in another way. Alternate translation: “You are abundantly majestic and” or “Because you are abundantly majestic,” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

**those who rise up against you (ULT)
your enemies (UST)**

Rebelling against Yahweh is spoken of as **rising up against** him. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “those who rebel against you” or “your enemies” (See: [Metaphor](#))

**your heat (ULT)
When you are angry, you destroy them (UST)**

Alternate translation: “your wrath” or “your fury”

**You send out your heat (ULT)
When you are angry, you destroy them (UST)**

Moses speaks of Yahweh’s wrath (literally **heat**) as if it were a servant that Yahweh sent out to do something. Alternate translation: “You show your wrath” or “You act according to your wrath” (See: [Personification](#))

**it devours them like stubble (ULT)
like a fire burns up straw (UST)**

Moses speaks of God’s wrath as if it were fire that could completely burn up things. His enemies were completely destroyed like **stubble** in a fire. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “it completely destroys your enemies like a fire that burns up straw” (See: [Metaphor](#))

ULT

⁷ And in the abundance of [your majesty](#) you overthrow those who rise up against you. [You send out](#) your heat; [it devours them](#) like stubble.

UST

⁷ You use your great [strength](#) to defeat your enemies. [When you are angry, you destroy them like a fire burns up straw.](#)

it devours them like stubble (ULT) like a fire burns up straw (UST)

Here the enemies (or **those who rise up against** Yahweh) are pictured as if they were a highly flammable piece of dried grass. Alternate translation: "it devours the enemy as if they were stubble" (See: [Simile](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- your majesty
- You send out
- it devours them

Translation Words - UST

- your...strength
- When you are angry, you destroy them
- like a fire burns up straw

Exodus 15:8

And by the breath of your nostrils (ULT) You blew on (UST)

Moses speaks of God as if God had a nose, and he speaks of the wind as if God blew the wind from his nose. Alternate translation: "You blew on the sea and" (See: [Personification](#))

And by the breath of your nostrils the waters were piled up; the flowing waters were stood upright like a heap (ULT) You blew on the sea, and the water piled up high; the water became like mounds of dirt (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "The blast from your nostrils piled the waters up and made the flowing waters stand upright in a heap" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

the waters were piled up; the flowing waters were stood upright like a heap; the deeps thickened in the heart of the sea (ULT) the sea, and the water piled up high; the water became like mounds of dirt. In the deepest part of the sea, the water became thick, as though it were frozen (UST)

These lines are synonymous parallels where each line means basically the same thing, but each gives the reader a different poetic image. (See: [Parallelism](#))

in the heart of the sea (ULT) In the deepest part of the sea (UST)

The center or deepest part of the sea is spoken of as if the sea had a **heart**. Alternate translation: "in the center of the sea" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the waters
- the deeps
- in the heart of

Translation Words - UST

- the sea...water
- the water
- In the deepest part of

ULT

⁸ And by the breath of your nostrils the waters were piled up; the flowing waters were stood upright like a heap; the deeps thickened in the heart of the sea.

UST

⁸ You blew on the sea, and the water piled up high; the water became like mounds of dirt. In the deepest part of the sea, the water became thick, as though it were frozen.

Exodus 15:9

my soul will be satisfied in them (ULT) We will do whatever we want to them (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "I will satisfy my desire on them" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

my hand will dispossess them (ULT) and defeat them (UST)

The meaning of this phrase is unclear. The word translated **dispossess** could also mean "possess" or "inherit." What seems clear is that the Egyptians plan to use their power to prevent the Israelites from possessing good things. Whether this is a reference back to **plunder** earlier in the verse or to recapturing them as slaves or to taking over the Israelites' place in the land of Goshen or to keeping them from reaching the promised land (of Yahweh's possession, see [verse 17](#) regarding where Yahweh will bring his people) or something else is not so clear. It could also refer to taking away their life and breath. **Dispossess** was chosen rather than another term because the verb is in a causative form here. Alternate translation: "my hand will possess them" or "my hand will inherit them" or "my hand will kill them"

my hand will dispossess them (ULT) and defeat them (UST)

Here **hand** is used figuratively of the Egyptians' power (that is, their military strength). If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "I will dispossess them" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [The enemy](#)
- [I will overtake](#)
- [my soul](#)
- [my sword](#)
- [my hand](#)
- [will dispossess them](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Our enemies](#)
- [and catch up to them](#)
- [We will do whatever we want to them](#)
- [our swords](#)
- [and defeat them](#)
- [and defeat them](#)

ULT

⁹ [The enemy](#) said, 'I will pursue, [I will overtake](#); I will share out the plunder; [my soul](#) will be satisfied in them; I will empty [my sword](#); [my hand](#) will dispossess them.'

UST

⁹ [Our enemies](#) said, 'We will go after them [and catch up to them](#). [We will do whatever we want to them!](#) We will draw [our swords and defeat them](#); then we will divide up everything we take from them.'

Exodus 15:10

You blew with your wind (ULT)

Your wind blew (UST)

Moses spoke about God making the **wind** blow as if God **blew** the wind through his nose or mouth. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "But you made the wind blow" (See: [Metaphor](#))

they sank like lead in the majestic waters (ULT)

They sank like lead in the big waves (UST)

Lead is a heavy metal that is commonly used to make things sink in water. It is used here to show how quickly God's enemies were destroyed. Alternate translation: "sank as fast as a heavy piece of metal in the deep turbulent waters" (See: [Simile](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [with your wind](#)
- [in the...waters](#)
- [majestic](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Your wind](#)
- [in the...waves](#)
- [big](#)

ULT

¹⁰ You blew [with your wind](#); the sea covered them; they sank like lead [in the majestic waters](#).

UST

¹⁰ [Your wind](#) blew, and then the sea covered them. They sank like lead [in the big waves](#).

Exodus 15:11

Who is like you among the gods Yahweh (ULT) Yahweh, there is no other god like you (UST)

Moses uses this question to show how great God is. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "O Yahweh, no one is like you among the gods!" or "Yahweh, none of the gods is like you!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Who is like you, majestic in holiness, feared in praises, doing miracles (ULT) There is no one like you! You are wonderfully different from everything else. Everyone fears and praises you for all the miracles you do (UST)

Moses uses this question to show how great God is. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "No one is like you. No one is majestic in holiness as you are, no one is honored in praises as you are, and no one does miracles as you do!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

majestic in holiness (ULT) You are wonderfully different from everything else (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. Alternate translation: "majestic and holy" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [majestic](#)
- [in holiness](#)
- [feared](#)
- [in praises](#)
- [miracles](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [You are...different from everything else](#)
- [wonderfully](#)
- [Everyone fears](#)
- [and praises you](#)
- [for all the miracles](#)

ULT

¹¹ Who is like you among the gods [Yahweh](#)? Who is like you, [majestic in holiness](#), [feared in praises](#), doing [miracles](#)?

UST

¹¹ [Yahweh](#), there is no other god like you! There is no one like you! [You are wonderfully different from everything else](#). [Everyone fears and praises you for all the miracles](#) you do!

Exodus 15:12

your right hand (ULT)

your power (UST)

The phrase **right hand** represents the strong power of God.
Alternate translation: “with your strong power” (See: [Metonymy](#))

You reached out your right hand (ULT)

You used your power (UST)

Moses speaks about God causing something to happen as if God **reached out** with his* *hand**. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “With your strong power you made it happen” (See: [Metaphor](#))

and the earth swallows them (ULT)

to make the earth open and our enemies go down into it (UST)

Moses personifies the earth as if it could swallow or devour with its mouth. Alternate translation: “the earth devours them” (See: [Personification](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the earth](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the earth](#)

ULT

¹² You reached out your right hand, and [the earth](#) swallows them.

UST

¹² You used your power to make [the earth](#) open and our enemies go down into it!

Exodus 15:13

In your covenant faithfulness, you led this people you redeemed. In your strength, you guided them (ULT)

You are leading the people you bought because you always love us; Because {you use} your strength {for our good}, you are guiding us (UST)

These lines are structural parallels where the lines are saying similar things, but the parallelism is more in the construction of the lines. **In your** is repeated and the concepts of **led** and **guided** are very similar to one another. (See: [Parallelism](#))

your holiness (ULT)
that you set apart (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. See the UST. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [In your covenant faithfulness](#)
- [people](#)
- [you redeemed](#)
- [In your strength](#)
- [your holiness](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the people](#)
- [you bought](#)
- [because you always love us](#)
- [Because {you use} your strength {for our good}](#)
- [that you set apart](#)

ULT

¹³ [In your covenant faithfulness](#), you led this [people you redeemed](#). [In your strength](#), you guided them to the home of [your holiness](#).

UST

¹³ You are leading [the people you bought because you always love us](#); [Because {you use} your strength {for our good}](#), you are guiding us to the home [that you set apart](#).

Exodus 15:14

tremble

Verses 14-16a form a complex parallel structure where things are repeated in reverse. (See the introduction to chapter 15 and [Parallelism](#))

they shake (ULT) and they will tremble (UST)

This means to shake with fear. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

anguish seized the inhabitants of Philistia (ULT) The people in Philistia will be terrified (UST)

Moses speaks of **anguish** as if it were a person that could forcefully grab hold of someone and make them extremely afraid. Alternate translation: “the inhabitants of Philistia will be afraid” (See: [Personification](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [The peoples](#)
- [they shake](#)
- [seized](#)
- [Philistia](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The people of other nations](#)
- [and they will tremble](#)
- [in Philistia](#)
- [will be terrified](#)

ULT

14 [The peoples](#) heard; [they shake](#); anguish [seized](#) the inhabitants of [Philistia](#).

UST

14 [The people of other nations](#) will hear what you have done, [and they will tremble](#). The people [in Philistia will be terrified](#).

Exodus 15:15

trembling seizes the leaders of Moab (ULT) The leaders in Moab will be so afraid that they will shake (UST)

Moses speaks of **trembling** as if it were a person that could forcefully grab hold of someone and make them extremely afraid. Alternate translation: “the leaders of Moab will be afraid” (See: [Personification](#))

melted away (ULT) will faint (UST)

Moses uses the phrase, **melted away**, to speak of people becoming weak because of their fear. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “became weak from fear” (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the chiefs of](#)
- [Edom](#)
- [panicked](#)
- [trembling](#)
- [seizes](#)
- [the leaders of](#)
- [Moab](#)
- [Canaan](#)
- [melted away](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The chiefs in](#)
- [Edom](#)
- [will be dismayed](#)
- [The leaders in](#)
- [Moab](#)
- [will be so afraid](#)
- [that they will shake](#)
- [Canaan](#)
- [will faint](#)

ULT

¹⁵ Then [the chiefs of Edom panicked](#); [trembling seizes the leaders of Moab](#); all the inhabitants of [Canaan melted away](#).

UST

¹⁵ [The chiefs in Edom will be dismayed](#). [The leaders in Moab will be so afraid that they will shake](#). All those who live in [Canaan will faint](#).

Exodus 15:16

Terror and dread fall on them (ULT) They will be terrified and fearful (UST)

Terror and dread form a doublet meaning “extremely fearful.” If your language does not use repetition in this way, you can combine these phrases. Alternate translation: “They will become extremely fearful” (See: [Doublet](#))

Terror and dread fall on them (ULT) They will be terrified and fearful (UST)

Terror and dread are pictured as physical objects that could **fall on** people. The image might be of them crushing people or being a heavy weight that people struggle under (however, the image is not specified). It means that the people will feel the emotions of terror and dread very strongly. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “They will be overwhelmed with feelings of terror and dread” (See: [Metaphor](#))

By the greatness of your arm (ULT) because of your great strength (UST)

Yahweh’s **arm** represents his great strength. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “Because of your great strength” (See: [Metonymy](#))

they are still as a stone (ULT) But they will be as silent as stones (UST)

This could mean: (1) “they will be silent like stone” or (2) “they will be motionless as stone” (See: [Simile](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Terror
- and dread
- your people
- people
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- terrified
- and fearful
- we, your people
- the people
- we, your people

ULT

¹⁶ **Terror and dread** fall on them. By the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone until **your people** pass by, **Yahweh**, until this **people** you acquired pass by.

UST

¹⁶ They will be **terrified and fearful** because of your great strength. But they will be as silent as stones until **we, your people**, march past them, **the people** you freed {from being slaves in Egypt.}

Exodus 15:17

You will bring them, and you will plant them (ULT)

You will bring us {into the promised land of Canaan.} You will enable us to live (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express where God would bring them explicitly. Alternate translation: “You will take your people to Canaan and plant them there” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

You will bring them (ULT)

You will bring us {into the promised land of Canaan (UST)

Since Moses was not already in Canaan, some languages would use “take” rather than **bring**. Alternate translation: “You will take them” (See: [Go and Come](#))

and you will plant them on the mountain of (ULT)

You will enable us to live on...hill (UST)

Moses speaks about God giving his people the land to live in as if they were a plant that God was planting. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “and you will settle them on the mountain of” or “and you will let them live on the mountain of” (See: [Metaphor](#))

on the mountain of your possession (ULT)

on your hill (UST)

This refers to Mount Zion in the land of Canaan.

on the mountain of your possession (ULT)

on your hill (UST)

Moses speaks about God promising to give his people **the mountain** forever as if he were giving it to them as an inheritance. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “on the mountain that you have given them as an inheritance” (See: [Metaphor](#))

that your hands built (ULT)

that you yourself will build (UST)

The phrase **your hands** refers to God’s power. Alternate translation: “that you have built by your power” (See: [Metonymy](#))

ULT

¹⁷ You will bring them, and you will plant them on the mountain of your possession, the place, Yahweh, that you made for your dwelling, the holy place, my Lord, that your hands built.

UST

¹⁷ You will bring us {into the promised land of Canaan.} You will enable us to live on your hill, in the place that you, Yahweh, have chosen to be your home, in the holy place, our Lord, that you yourself will build.

Translation Words - ULT

- and you will plant them

- your possession
- Yahweh
- the holy place
- my Lord
- your hands

Translation Words - UST

- You will enable us to live
- your
- Yahweh
- in the holy place
- our Lord
- you yourself

Exodus 15:18

Yahweh will reign forever and ever (ULT)

O Yahweh, you will rule forever (UST)

Alternate translation: "Yahweh reigns forever and ever"

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- will reign
- forever

Translation Words - UST

- O Yahweh
- you will rule
- forever

ULT

¹⁸ Yahweh will reign forever and ever."

UST

¹⁸ O Yahweh, you will rule forever!"

Exodus 15:19

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the horse of
- Pharaoh
- with his chariots
- and horsemen
- Yahweh
- And...returned
- the waters of
- And the sons of
- Israel
- walked

Translation Words - UST

- the king's
- horses
- walked through
- and chariots
- and horsemen
- Yahweh
- caused...to come back
- the water
- But the Israelite people
- But the Israelite people

ULT

¹⁹ For the horse of Pharaoh went with his chariots and horsemen into the sea. And Yahweh returned upon them the waters of the sea. And the sons of Israel walked on dry land in the middle of the sea.

UST

¹⁹ When the king's horses and chariots and horsemen tried to go through the sea, Yahweh caused the water to come back and cover them. But the Israelite people walked through the middle of the sea on dry ground.

Exodus 15:20

a tambourine...with tambourines (ULT) her tambourine...who had tambourines (UST)

A **tambourine** is a hand-held musical instrument like a small drum that also has pieces of metal around the side that make a metallic rattling sound when shaken. Alternate translation: "timbrel" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing (ULT) and led all the other women who had tambourines out to dance (UST)

Here, **all** may be a generalization; it may not have been every woman. It could be better to translate as a restrictive clause as in the UST. Alternate translation: "and every woman who went out after her had a tambourine and danced" (See: [Hyperbole](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Miriam](#)
- [the prophetess](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [in her hand](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Miriam](#)
- [who was Aaron's](#)
- [and a prophetess](#)
- [her tambourine](#)

ULT

²⁰ And [Miriam the prophetess](#), the sister of [Aaron](#), took a tambourine [in her hand](#), and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.

UST

²⁰ Then [Miriam, who was Aaron's](#) older sister [and a prophetess](#), picked up [her tambourine](#) and led all the other women who had tambourines out to dance.

Exodus 15:21

he has triumphed triumphantly (ULT)
he has triumphed gloriously over his enemies (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could state explicitly over whom Yahweh triumphed. See how you translated this in [Exodus 15:1](#). Alternate translation: “he has achieved a glorious victory over the army of Egypt” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

the horse and the one riding it he threw into the sea (ULT)
He has thrown the horses and their riders into the sea (UST)

Miriam sang about God causing the **sea** to cover and drown the **horse and the one riding it** as if God had thrown them **into the sea**. See how you translated this in [Exodus 15:1](#). If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “he has made the horse and rider drown in the sea” (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Miriam](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [the horse](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Miriam](#)
- [to Yahweh...to Yahweh](#)
- [the horses](#)

ULT

²¹ And [Miriam](#) responded to them: “Sing [to Yahweh](#), for he has triumphed triumphantly; [the horse](#) and the one riding it he threw into the sea.”

UST

²¹ [Miriam](#) sang [to Yahweh](#) this song: “Sing [to Yahweh](#) because he has triumphed gloriously over his enemies. He has thrown [the horses](#) and their riders into the sea.”

Exodus 15:22

Israel (ULT) the Israelite people (UST)

The word **Israel** represents the people of Israel. If your language does not use singular nouns in that way, you can use a different expression. Alternate translation: "Moses led the Israelite people" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

the Wilderness of Shur (ULT) the wilderness of Shur (UST)

We do not know the exact location of this place. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [from the Sea of Reeds](#)
- [the Wilderness of](#)
- [into the wilderness](#)
- [days](#)
- [water](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [away from the Red Sea](#)
- [the wilderness of](#)
- [the wilderness of](#)
- [days](#)
- [any water](#)

ULT

²² And [Moses](#) caused [Israel](#) to set out [from the Sea of Reeds](#). And they went out into [the Wilderness of Shur](#). And they traveled for three [days into the wilderness](#), and they found no [water](#).

UST

²² Then [Moses](#) led [the Israelite people](#) [away from the Red Sea](#). They went to [the wilderness of Shur](#). They walked for three [days](#), but they could not find [any water](#).

Exodus 15:23

to Marah (ULT) to a place named Marah (UST)

We do not know the exact location of **Marah**. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the waters of](#)
- [its name](#)
- [he called its name](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [There was water...it](#)
- [they named](#)
- [they named](#)

ULT

²³ And they came to Marah, and they were not able to drink [the waters of Marah](#), because they were bitter. So [he called its name](#) Marah.

UST

²³ So they went on and came to a place named Marah. [There was water](#) there, but they could not drink [it](#), because it was bitter. That is why [they named](#) the place Marah, which is the Hebrew word that means 'bitter.'

Exodus 15:24

And the people murmured against Moses (ULT)

The people complained to Moses (UST)

Murmur is a very strong term for “grumble” or “complain” that is used to describe the Israelites’ attitude throughout their time in the wilderness. It occurs several times in Exodus and Numbers. Alternate translation: “And the people complained against Moses” or “And the people grumbled at Moses”

Translation Words - ULT

- the people
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- The people
- Moses

ULT

²⁴ And the people murmured against Moses, saying, “What can we drink?”

UST

²⁴ The people complained to Moses, saying, “What are we going to drink?”

Exodus 15:25

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- And he cried out
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- the water
- the water
- a statute
- and an ordinance
- he tested him

Translation Words - UST

- So Moses prayed
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- the water
- the water
- a fixed rule by which to live
- a fixed rule by which to live
- He also tested them...to determine if they would obey him

ULT

²⁵ And he cried out to Yahweh, and Yahweh showed him a tree. And he threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There he gave him a statute and an ordinance, and there he tested him.

UST

²⁵ So Moses prayed to Yahweh. Then Yahweh showed him a branch. He took the branch and threw it into the water, and the water became good to drink. There at Marah, Yahweh gave them a fixed rule by which to live. He also tested them there {to determine if they would obey him.}

Exodus 15:26

to the voice of Yahweh your God (ULT)
I am Yahweh, your God...when I speak to you (UST)

Yahweh is speaking about his own voice. Alternate translation: “to my voice” (See: [First](#), [Second](#) or [Third Person](#))

to the voice of Yahweh your God (ULT)
I am Yahweh, your God...when I speak to you (UST)

Yahweh’s voice represents what he says. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “to what I say” (See: [Metonymy](#))

and you do what is right in his eyes (ULT)
and do those things that I say are right (UST)

The **eyes** represent seeing, and seeing represents thoughts or judgment. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent idiom from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “and do what Yahweh considers to be right” (See: [Idiom](#))

and you give ear to his commands (ULT)
and listen to all the things that I tell you (UST)

The **ear** represents listening, and listening represents obeying. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent idiom from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “and you carefully obey his commands” (See: [Idiom](#))

all of the diseases that I put on the Egyptians I shall not put on you (ULT)
I will keep you from all the diseases that I brought on the Egyptians (UST)

God speaks of causing people to have diseases as putting diseases on them. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent idiom from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “I will not cause any of you to have the diseases that I cause the Egyptians to have” (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [to the voice of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [your God](#)
- [to his commands](#)
- [and you keep](#)
- [his laws](#)
- [on the Egyptians](#)
- [I am Yahweh](#)

ULT

²⁶ And he said, “If you carefully listen [to the voice of Yahweh your God](#), and you do what is right in his eyes, and you give ear [to his commands and you keep](#) all of [his laws](#), all of the diseases that I put [on the Egyptians](#) I shall not put on you, for [I am Yahweh your healer](#).”

UST

²⁶ He said, “[I am Yahweh, your God](#). If you will obey me [when I speak to you](#) and do those things that I say are right [and listen to all the things that I tell you](#), I will keep you from all the diseases that I brought [on the Egyptians](#). Do not forget that [I am Yahweh, the one who heals you](#).”

- your healer

Translation Words - UST

- I am Yahweh
- your God
- when I speak to you
- and listen
- to all the things that I tell you
- to all the things that I tell you
- on the Egyptians
- I am Yahweh
- the one who heals you

Exodus 15:27**to Elim (ULT)****to a place named Elim (UST)**

Elim is an oasis in the desert, a place with water and shade trees.
(See: [How to Translate Names](#))

and 70 (ULT)**and 70 (UST)**

Alternate translation: “and seventy” (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [there was...water](#)
- [the water](#)
- [springs of](#)
- [palm trees](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [springs of](#)
- [water](#)
- [there...there](#)
- [palm trees](#)

ULT

²⁷ And they came to Elim, and there [there was](#) 12 [springs of water](#) and 70 [palm trees](#). And they camped there by [the water](#).

UST

²⁷ After they left Marah, they came to a place named Elim. There were 12 [springs of water](#) and 70 [palm trees](#) [there](#). So they camped [there](#).

Exodus 16

Exodus 16 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

This entire chapter is the story of the Israelites complaining about food and Yahweh providing food. Verses 22-30 introduce the Sabbath.

Special concepts in this chapter

Complaints

After complaining about the water, the Israelites complained that they had less food than in Egypt. This is intended to show their ungratefulness and their sinful view of Yahweh. (See: [sin](#), [sinful](#), [sinner](#), [sinning](#))

Prohibition against storing food

The people were not allowed to store the food, called manna, that Yahweh provided to them. This is because they were to trust in Yahweh to provide for their needs every day. (See: [trust](#), [trusted](#), [trustworthy](#), [trustworthiness](#))

Sabbath

This is the first recorded celebration of the Sabbath rest. (See: [Sabbath](#))

Possible translation difficulties in this chapter

Bread as food

Yahweh speaks of the food that he will send as if it were bread. The manna he gave them was perhaps not literally bread. The Israelites would eat this food every day, just as they had eaten bread every day before this. Alternate translations: "food" or "food like bread" (See: [bread](#) and [Metaphor](#))

Chronology

Verses 34-36 are written from a much later perspective. Translators will need to find a way to show that this portion gives background information from a much later point (at least 40 years).

Box of the Covenant

Related to the chronology issue, although the covenant has not yet been made, it is referenced in Exodus 16:34. This is probably an editorial comment made after these events. (See: [covenant](#))

Wilderness of Sin

Sin is the name of a part of the Sinai Wilderness. It is the description of a place, and it has nothing to do with sinning. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Exodus 16:1

Sin (ULT)

Sin (UST)

The word **Sin** here is the Hebrew name of the wilderness. It is not the English word "sin." (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

on the fifteenth day of the second month (ULT)

That was on the fifteenth day of the second month (UST)

This time coincides with the end of April and the beginning of May on Western calendars. You could convert the Hebrew day and month into an approximate date on the calendar that your culture uses. However, the Jews used a lunar calendar, so if you use a solar calendar, the date will be different every year and the translation will not be entirely accurate. So you may just want to give the number of the day and the name of the month on the Hebrew calendar, and say approximately what time of year that is on your calendar in a footnote. (See: [Hebrew Months](#))

on the fifteenth day of the second month (ULT)

That was on the fifteenth day of the second month (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "on day 15 of month 2" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the congregation of](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [day of](#)
- [the...month](#)
- [from the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Israelite people](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [day](#)
- [of the...month](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [Egypt](#)

ULT

¹ And they journeyed on from Elim, and all of [the congregation of the sons of Israel](#) entered into the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth [day of](#) the second [month](#) after their departure [from the land of Egypt](#).

UST

¹ They left Elim, and all [the Israelite people](#) came to the wilderness of Sin between Elim and Sinai Mountain. That was on the fifteenth [day of the](#) second [month](#) after they left [Egypt](#).

Exodus 16:2

And all the congregation of the sons of Israel murmured (ULT)
the Israelite people complained (UST)

Here, **all** is a generalization. Alternate translation: “And many of the community of the sons of Israel murmured” (See: [Hyperbole](#))

And...murmured (ULT)
complained (UST)

Alternate translation: “And ... spoke angrily”

Translation Words - ULT

- [the congregation of](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [in the wilderness](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [There in the wilderness](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)

ULT

² And all [the congregation of the sons of Israel](#) murmured against [Moses](#) and against [Aaron in the wilderness](#).

UST

² [There in the wilderness](#), [the Israelite people](#) complained against [Moses](#) and [Aaron](#).

Exodus 16:3

If only we had died (ULT)

We wish that...had killed us (UST)

This is a way of saying that they wished that they had died. It is a hypothetical past statement. Translate it in a way that makes it clear that this did not actually happen. Alternate translation: "We wish that we had died" (See: [Hypothetical Situations](#))

by the hand of Yahweh (ULT)

Yahweh (UST)

The phrase **the hand of Yahweh** represents Yahweh's action. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "by Yahweh's action" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [assembly](#)
- [with hunger](#)
- [we had died](#)
- [to kill](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [in the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [meat](#)
- [bread](#)
- [wilderness](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [They](#)
- [They](#)
- [we](#)
- [will all starve](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had killed us](#)
- [in order that...until we die](#)
- [in Egypt](#)
- [in Egypt](#)
- [There we had meat to cook](#)
- [the bread](#)
- [desert](#)

ULT

³ And [the sons of Israel](#) said to them, "If only [we had died](#) by the hand of [Yahweh in the land of Egypt](#), sitting by a pot of [meat](#), eating [bread](#) to the full. For you have brought us out into this [wilderness to kill](#) this whole [assembly with hunger](#)."

UST

³ [They](#) said to them, "We wish that [Yahweh had killed us in Egypt!](#) [There we had meat to cook](#) and all [the bread](#) that we wanted to eat. But you have brought us into this [desert in order that we will all starve until we die!](#)"

Exodus 16:4

make bread rain down from heaven for you

(ULT)

I am going to send bread from the sky for you

(UST)

God speaks of food coming **down from heaven** as if it were rain. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “make bread come down from heaven like rain” or “make bread fall to you from the sky” (See: [Metaphor](#))

in my law (ULT)

whether they will obey me (UST)

Alternate translation: “in my instruction”

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- bread
- heaven
- the people
- a...day
- day each
- I may test them
- Will they walk
- in my law

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- whether they will obey me
- whether they will obey me
- bread
- the sky
- the people
- every day...enough to eat on that day
- every day...enough to eat on that day
- I will find out

ULT

⁴ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Behold me make bread rain down from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather the portion of a day each day, so that I may test them: Will they walk in my law or not?”

UST

⁴ Yahweh said to Moses, “Watch what I am going to do. I am going to send bread from the sky for you. When I do that, the people must go out of their tents every day and gather enough to eat on that day. When I do that, I will find out whether they will obey me or not.”

Exodus 16:5

And so it will be, on the sixth day, that they shall prepare (ULT)

On the sixth day {of each week...and prepare (UST)

Alternate translation: "It will happen on the sixth day that they will prepare" or "On the sixth day they will prepare"

on the sixth day (ULT)

On the sixth day...of each week (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "on day 6" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

twice (ULT)

twice (UST)

two times

Translation Words - ULT

- on the...day
- daily
- daily

Translation Words - UST

- On the sixth day...of each week
- on the other days {so they do not have to gather any on the seventh day
- on the other days...so they do not have to gather any on the seventh day

ULT

⁵ And so it will be, on the sixth day, that they shall prepare what they bring in, and that will be twice as much as what they gather daily."

UST

⁵ On the sixth day {of each week}, they should gather and prepare twice as much as on the other days {so they do not have to gather any on the seventh day}."

Exodus 16:6

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- and Aaron
- the sons of
- Israel
- you will know
- Yahweh
- from the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- and Aaron
- the Israelite people
- the Israelite people
- you will know
- Yahweh{, not us,
- out of
- Egypt

ULT

⁶ And Moses and Aaron said to all of the sons of Israel, "At evening you will know that Yahweh brought you out from the land of Egypt.

UST

⁶ So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelite people, "This evening you will know that it was Yahweh{, not us,} who brought you out of Egypt.

Exodus 16:7

And who are we that you murmur against us (ULT)

We are not important enough for your complaints (UST)

Moses and Aaron used this question to show the people that it was foolish to complain against them. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "We are not powerful enough for you to complain against us." or "It is foolish to complain against us, because we cannot do what you want." (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the glory of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [how great](#)
- [Yahweh is](#)
- [him](#)

ULT

⁷ In the morning you will see [the glory of Yahweh](#) in his hearing your murmurings against [Yahweh](#). And who are we that you murmur against us?"

UST

⁷ In the morning you will see [how great Yahweh is](#), because he has heard how you have complained against [him](#). We are not important enough for your complaints."

Exodus 16:8

And what are we (ULT)

We are unimportant (UST)

Moses used this question to show the people that he and Aaron did not have the power to give them what they wanted. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "Aaron and I cannot give you what you want." (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

And what are we? Not against us is your murmuring, but against Yahweh (ULT)

We are unimportant; when you complain, it is really about Yahweh, not us (UST)

The people were complaining against Moses and Aaron, who were Yahweh's servants. So by complaining against them, the people were really complaining against Yahweh. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "Your complaints are not really against us; they are against Yahweh, because we are his servants" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

ULT

⁸ And [Moses](#) said, "So [Yahweh](#) gives you [meat](#) to eat in the evening and [bread](#) in the morning to satiation; [Yahweh](#) is hearing your murmurings that you murmur against him. And what are we? Not against us is your murmuring, but against [Yahweh](#)."

UST

⁸ Then [Moses](#) also said, "Each evening [Yahweh](#) will give you [meat](#) to eat, and each morning he will give you enough [bread](#) to make you full. [He](#) has heard how you have complained about him. We are unimportant; when you complain, it is really about [Yahweh](#), not us."

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [meat](#)
- [and bread](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [He](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [meat](#)
- [bread](#)

Exodus 16:9

And Moses said to Aaron, “Say to all of the congregation of the sons of Israel, ‘Approach (ULT)

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Tell all the Israelite people, ‘Come and stand (UST)

There are two layers of quotations here. You may want to translate one or the other as an indirect quotation in order to reduce the layers of quotations in this passage. Alternative translation: “And Moses told Aaron to tell all of the congregation of the sons of Israel, “Approach” or “And Moses told Aaron, “Tell all of the congregation of the sons of Israel to approach” (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [the congregation of](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

⁹ And [Moses](#) said to [Aaron](#), “Say to all of [the congregation of the sons of Israel](#), ‘Approach the face of [Yahweh](#), for he has heard your murmurings.”

UST

⁹ Then [Moses](#) said to [Aaron](#), “Tell all [the Israelite people](#), ‘Come and stand here in the presence of [Yahweh](#), because he has heard what you have been complaining about.”

Exodus 16:10

And so it was (ULT)

So (UST)

This phrase is used here to mark an important event in the story. The important event here is the people seeing Yahweh's glory. If your language has a way for doing this, you could consider using it here.

and behold (ULT)

and were surprised to see (UST)

The word **behold** here shows that the people saw something extraordinary.

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- congregation of
- the sons of
- Israel
- that they turned
- the wilderness
- the glory of
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- they turned to look
- the desert
- the dazzling light of
- Yahweh

ULT

¹⁰ And so it was, as Aaron spoke to all of the congregation of the sons of Israel, that they turned toward the wilderness, and behold! the glory of Yahweh appeared in the cloud!

UST

¹⁰ So as Aaron told the Israelites that, they turned to look toward the desert and were surprised to see the dazzling light of Yahweh in the cloud {that had been leading them}.

Exodus 16:11

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses

ULT

¹¹ And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

UST

¹¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses,

Exodus 16:12

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the sons of
- Israel
- meat
- with bread
- And you will know
- I am Yahweh
- your God

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- meat
- bread
- Then you will know
- I am Yahweh
- your God

ULT

¹² "I have heard the murmurings of the sons of Israel. Speak to them saying, 'Between the evenings you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be satisfied with bread. And you will know that I am Yahweh your God.'"

UST

¹² "I have heard what the Israelites have been complaining about. So say to them, 'At twilight, you will have meat to eat, and in the morning you will have bread. You will have all you want of it to eat. Then you will know that I am Yahweh, your God.'"

Exodus 16:13

And so it was (ULT)

That evening (UST)

This phrase is used here to mark an important part of the events. If your language has a way for doing this, you could consider using it here.

quail (ULT)

quails (UST)

The word **quail** means a type of small, plump game bird. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

ULT

¹³ And so it was, in the evening quail came up and covered the camp. And in the morning the dew was lying round about the camp.

UST

¹³ That evening quails appeared, and there were so many that they covered the campsite. The next morning there were small drops of water all around the campsite.

Exodus 16:14**like frost (ULT)****It looked like...ice (UST)**

Frost is frozen dew that forms on the ground. It is very fine. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

like frost (ULT)**It looked like...ice (UST)**

The original readers knew what frost is like, so this phrase would help them understand what the flakes were like. Alternate translation: “flakes that looked like frost” or “flakes that were fine like frost” (See: [Simile](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the wilderness](#)
- [the ground](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the desert ground](#)
- [the ground](#)

ULT

¹⁴ And the lying dew went up; and behold! on the face of [the wilderness](#) were thin flakes, thin like frost on [the ground](#).

UST

¹⁴ When the water on the ground dried up, they saw a thin layer of something that looked like {small white} flakes on [the desert ground](#). It looked like a thin layer of ice on [the ground](#).

Exodus 16:15

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the sons of
- Israel
- his brother
- they did...know
- Moses
- is the bread
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- they did...know
- to each other
- Moses
- is the food
- Yahweh

ULT

¹⁵ And **the sons of Israel** saw it, and they said each man to **his brother**, "What is it?" Because **they did not know** what it was. And **Moses** said to them, "It **is the bread** that **Yahweh** has given you to eat.

UST

¹⁵ When **the Israelites** saw it, **they did not know** what it was, so they said **to each other**, "What is it?" **Moses** replied to them, "It **is the food Yahweh** has given you to eat.

Exodus 16:16

each according to the mouths of his eating (ULT)

Each of you...as much as you need to eat (UST)

Alternate translation: "according to how much each will eat"

an omer (ULT)

two liters (UST)

2 liters (See: [Biblical Volume](#))

an omer for each person up to the number of your people, each shall take for those in his tent (ULT)

Gather two liters for each person who lives in your tents (UST)

Alternate translation: "take an omer per person according to how many people are in the gatherer's tent"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [has commanded](#)
- [your people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [has commanded](#)
- [for each person who lives](#)

ULT

¹⁶ This is the thing that [Yahweh has commanded](#): 'Gather from it each according to the mouths of his eating; an omer for each person up to the number of [your people](#), each shall take for those in his tent.'

UST

¹⁶ This is what [Yahweh has commanded](#): Each of you should gather as much as you need to eat. Gather two liters [for each person who lives](#) in your tents."

Exodus 16:17

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the sons of
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelite
- people

ULT

¹⁷ And [the sons of Israel](#) did so. And they gathered much, or little,

UST

¹⁷ So that is what [the Israelite people](#) did. Some gathered more and some gathered less.

Exodus 16:18

(There are no notes for this verse.)

ULT

18 and they measured it by omer. And there was no extra for those with much, and no lack for those with little. Each man gathered according to what he needed to eat.

UST

18 Because they gathered two liters per person, when they measured what they had gathered, those who had gathered a lot did not have anything left over. Those who had gathered less still had enough to eat. Each person gathered just enough.

Exodus 16:19

A man...not (ULT)

Do not leave (UST)

A **man** refers to people in general, not to one particular man. If this would be misunderstood in your language, use a more natural phrase. Alternate translation: "No one" (See: [Generic Noun Phrases](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)

ULT

¹⁹ And [Moses](#) said to them, "A man shall not save any of it until morning."

UST

¹⁹ [Moses](#) said to them, "Do not leave any of it to eat tomorrow morning!"

Exodus 16:20

and it bred worms (ULT)
However, it was full of maggots (UST)

Alternate translation: "and it decayed with worms"

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Moses
- And...became angry

Translation Words - UST

- what Moses said
- Moses
- That made...angry

ULT

²⁰ But they did not listen to Moses. And men reserved some of it until morning, and it bred worms, and it stank. And Moses became angry with them.

UST

²⁰ Some of them did not obey what Moses said. They kept some of it until the next morning. However, it was full of maggots and smelled rotten. That made Moses angry.

Exodus 16:21

each man according to the mouths of his eating (ULT)
as much as they needed (UST)

Alternate translation: "everyone according to how much they would eat" or "everyone according to how many people they had to feed"

ULT

²¹ And they gathered it morning by morning, each man according to the mouths of his eating. And the sun became hot, and it melted.

UST

²¹ Each morning they gathered as much as they needed. Later, when the sun got hot, what was left on the ground melted.

Exodus 16:22

And so it was (ULT)

On...day (UST)

This phrase is used here to mark the beginning of a new part of the story. Verses 16:22-30 tell about what the people did concerning the manna on the sixth and seventh days of the week. If your language has a way for marking this as a new part of the story, you could consider using it here. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

on the sixth day (ULT)

On...the sixth...day (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "on day 6" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

twice as much (ULT)

which was twice as much as they gathered on the other days (UST)

Alternate translation: "two times as much"

bread (ULT)

of bread (UST)

This refers to the **bread** that appeared as thin flakes on the ground each morning.

Translation Words - ULT

- [on...day](#)
- [bread](#)
- [the leaders of](#)
- [the community](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [On...day](#)
- [of bread](#)
- [the leaders of](#)
- [the people](#)
- [to Moses...him](#)

ULT

²² And so it was, on the sixth [day](#) they gathered twice as much [bread](#), two omers for each person. And all [the leaders of the community](#) came and told [Moses](#).

UST

²² On the sixth [day](#), each person was able to gather four liters of [bread](#), which was twice as much as they gathered on the other days. When [the leaders of the people](#) came to [Moses](#) and told [him](#) about that,

Exodus 16:23

is a rest, a Sabbath of holiness to Yahweh (ULT)

will be a day for you to rest. It will be a day set apart for Yahweh (UST)

Alternate translation: "is a day to stop working completely and dedicate to Yahweh"

a Sabbath of holiness (ULT)
It will be a day set apart (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. Alternate translation: "a holy Sabbath" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [a Sabbath of](#)
- [holiness](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [for Yahweh](#)
- [It will be a day](#)
- [set apart](#)

ULT

²³ And he said to them, "This is what [Yahweh](#) spoke: 'Tomorrow is a rest, [a Sabbath of holiness to Yahweh](#). What you are baking-bake! and what you are cooking-cook! And all of the leftovers cause to rest, for preservation for yourselves until morning.'"

UST

²³ Moses said to them, "This is what [Yahweh](#) has told you: Tomorrow will be a day for you to rest. [It will be a day set apart for Yahweh](#). So today, bake or boil what you will need for today and for tomorrow. Whatever is left this evening, you should put aside and keep it to eat tomorrow."

Exodus 16:24

And it did not become foul (ULT)

It did not spoil (UST)

Alternate translation: "And it did not smell rotten"

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- had instructed

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- told them

ULT

²⁴ And they left it until morning, as **Moses had instructed**. And it did not become foul, and no worms were in it.

UST

²⁴ So they did what **Moses told them**. What was left over, they kept until the next day. It did not spoil and did not get maggots in it!

Exodus 16:25

for it is Sabbath, a day for Yahweh (ULT)
because today is a day of rest to Yahweh (UST)

Alternate translation: "today is a Sabbath, a day to honor Yahweh by not working"

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- today
- a day
- a day
- it is Sabbath
- for Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- today
- today
- Today you
- is a day of rest
- to Yahweh

ULT

²⁵ And Moses said, "Eat it today, for it is Sabbath, a day for Yahweh, a day you will not find it in the fields.

UST

²⁵ On that day, Moses said, "Eat today what you have saved from yesterday because today is a day of rest to Yahweh. Today you will not find any of that food outside.

Exodus 16:26

and on the seventh day (ULT) but on the seventh day (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "but on day seven" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [days](#)
- [and on...day](#)
- [Sabbath](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [days](#)
- [but on the seventh day](#)
- [which will be a day of rest for you](#)

ULT

²⁶ You shall gather it for six [days](#), and [on the seventh day, Sabbath](#), there will be none of it."

UST

²⁶ Every week, you must gather it for six [days](#); [but on the seventh day, which will be a day of rest for you](#), there will not be any to gather."

Exodus 16:27

but they found none (ULT)
but could not find any (UST)

Alternate translation: "but they did not find any manna"

Translation Words - ULT

- on the...day
- people

Translation Words - UST

- On the seventh day
- people

ULT

²⁷ And so it was, on the seventh day, some of the people went out to gather, but they found none.

UST

²⁷ On the seventh day, some of the people went outside their tents to gather some of that food, but could not find any.

Exodus 16:28

Until what time will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws (ULT)

Yahweh is angry because for a long time you people have refused to do all the things that he has told you to do (UST)

God used this question to scold the people because they did not obey his laws. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "You people still do not keep my commandments and laws!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

ULT

²⁸ And Yahweh said to Moses, "Until what time will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws?"

UST

²⁸ Then Yahweh told Moses to say this to the people: "Yahweh is angry because for a long time you people have refused to do all the things that he has told you to do!"

will you refuse (ULT)

Yahweh is angry because for a long time you people have refused (UST)

Yahweh speaks to Moses, but the word **you** refers to the people of Israel in general. If the singular form would not be natural in your language for someone who was speaking to a group of people, you could use the plural forms of "you" in your translation. (See: [Singular Pronouns that refer to Groups](#))

to keep my commandments and my laws (ULT)

to do all the things that he has told you to do (UST)

Alternate translation: "to obey my commandments and my laws"

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- my commandments
- and my laws

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses to say this to the people
- to do all the things that he has told you to do
- to do all the things that he has told you to do

Exodus 16:29

For Yahweh has given you the Sabbath (ULT) Since Yahweh has given you a day of rest (UST)

Yahweh speaks about teaching people to rest on the Sabbath as if the **Sabbath** were a gift. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "I, Yahweh, have taught you to rest on the Sabbath" (See: [Metaphor](#))

on the sixth day...on the seventh day (ULT) on the sixth day of each week...on the seventh day (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "on day 6 ... on day 7" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

bread (ULT) enough of this food (UST)

This refers to the bread that appeared as thin flakes on the ground each morning.

for two days (ULT) for two days (UST)

Alternate translation: "for 2 days"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [the Sabbath](#)
- [on the...day](#)
- [for two days](#)
- [on the...day \(2\)](#)
- [bread](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [a day of rest](#)
- [on the sixth day of each week](#)
- [for two days](#)
- [on the seventh day \(2\)](#)
- [enough of this food](#)

ULT

²⁹ Look! For [Yahweh](#) has given you [the Sabbath](#). So [on the sixth day](#) he is giving you [bread for two days](#). Each one stay where he is; a man shall not be going out from his place [on the seventh day](#)."

UST

²⁹ Listen! Since [Yahweh](#) has given you [a day of rest, on the sixth day of each week](#), he will therefore be giving you [enough of this food for two days](#). Each of you should stay in his tent, not going anywhere [on the seventh day!](#)"

Exodus 16:30

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the people
- on the...day

Translation Words - UST

- the people
- on the...day

ULT

³⁰ And the people rested on the seventh day.

UST

³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

Exodus 16:31**like coriander seed, white (ULT)**
white, like the color of coriander seeds (UST)

Coriander is an herb also known as cilantro. People eat both the leaves and seeds. People dry the seeds, grind them into a powder, and put it in food to add flavor. Alternate translation: “like a small white seed” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

was like wafers (ULT)
like thin wafers (UST)

Wafers are very thin biscuits or crackers.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the house of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [its name](#)
- [manna](#)
- [with honey](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The Israelites](#)
- [The Israelites](#)
- [this food](#)
- [manna](#)
- [made with honey](#)

ULT

³¹ And [the house of Israel](#) called its [name “manna.”](#) And it was like coriander seed, white, and its taste was like wafers [with honey](#).

UST

³¹ [The Israelites](#) called [this food](#) ‘[manna](#).’ It looked white, like the color of coriander seeds, and it tasted like thin wafers [made with honey](#).

Exodus 16:32

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Yahweh
- has commanded
- for your descendants
- the bread
- in the wilderness
- from the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- what...has told you
- Yahweh
- for all future generations
- the food
- in the desert
- of Egypt
- of Egypt

ULT

³² And Moses said, "This is the procedure that Yahweh has commanded: 'A full omer of it for preservation for your descendants so that they can see the bread which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out from the land of Egypt.'"

UST

³² Moses said, "This is what Yahweh has told you: 'You must keep two liters of it for all future generations so that they can see the food that I gave you to eat in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt.'"

Exodus 16:33

before the face of Yahweh (ULT) in a place where Yahweh can see it (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of Yahweh. Alternate translation: "in the presence of Yahweh" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [manna](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [for your descendants](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [he](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [manna](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [for all future generations](#)

ULT

³³ And [Moses](#) said to [Aaron](#), "Take one pot and put there a full omer of [manna](#). Put it before the face of [Yahweh](#), for preservation [for your descendants](#)."

UST

³³ And [he](#) said to [Aaron](#), "Take a jar, and put two liters of [manna](#) in it. Then put it in a place where [Yahweh](#) can see it. You must keep it like that [for all future generations](#)."

Exodus 16:34

wafers

Verses 34-36 provide a later commentary on the chapter. If your language has a way of marking background information you may want to use it starting from verse 34 or verse 35. You may want to leave verse 34 more connected to verse 33 even though it references the **Covenant**, which has not been given yet. (See: [Background Information](#))

before the face of the Covenant (ULT) in front of the record of the agreement between...and Israel...Yahweh (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents being near the **Covenant**. Alternate translation: “near the Covenant” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- commanded
- Moses
- Aaron
- the Covenant

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- the record of the agreement between...and Israel...Yahweh
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

ULT

³⁴ Just as Yahweh commanded to Moses, so Aaron put it before the face of the Covenant, for preservation.

UST

³⁴ {Later} Aaron {would} put the jar in front of the record of the agreement between Yahweh and Israel in order to keep the manna as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Exodus 16:35

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- And the sons of
- Israel
- manna
- manna (2)
- land
- the land of
- Canaan

Translation Words - UST

- The Israelites
- The Israelites
- manna
- manna (2)
- where there were people
- the land of
- Canaan

ULT

³⁵ And the sons of Israel ate manna 40 years, until they came to inhabited land. They ate manna until they came to the borders of the land of Canaan.

UST

³⁵ The Israelites ate manna every day for forty years until they came to where there were people, at the border of the land of Canaan.

Exodus 16:36

**And an omer, it is a tenth of an ephah (ULT)
Now two liters is called} an omer, which is a
tenth of an ephah (UST)**

An **omer** and an **ephah** are both units of dry measurement. An ephah is approximately equal to a bushel, and an omer is one-tenth of an ephah. The original readers would have known how much an ephah was. This sentence would help them know how much an omer was. (See: [Biblical Volume](#))

**And an omer, it is a tenth of an ephah (ULT)
Now two liters is called} an omer, which is a tenth of an ephah (UST)**

For languages that do not use fractions, this can be reworded. Alternate translation: "Now ten omers equal one ephah" (See: [Fractions](#))

ULT

³⁶ (And an omer, it is a tenth of an ephah.)

UST

³⁶ {Now two liters is called} an omer, which is a tenth of an ephah.

Exodus 17

7# Exodus 17 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- v. 1-7: the Israelites complain and Yahweh gives them water
- v. 8-16: Israel defeats Amalek in battle

Important Figures of Speech in this Chapter

Rhetorical questions

Moses uses several rhetorical questions in this chapter. The purpose of these questions is to convince people of their sin. Likewise, the people's rhetorical question shows their ignorance. (See: [Rhetorical Question](#) and [sin, sinful, sinner, sinning](#))

Other Possible Translation Difficulties in this Chapter

Wilderness of Sin

Sin is the name of a part of the Sinai Wilderness. It is not the description of a place, and it has nothing to do with the act of sinning. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Naming

As in the last couple of chapters, places and things are named for what happens in that location. In this chapter is Massah (which means "test"), Meribah ("arguing"), and an altar named "Yahweh is my Banner," because Yahweh will be at war with the Amalekites forever.

Exodus 17:1

**And all the community of the sons of Israel journeyed (ULT)
Then...all the Israelites...travel...and they did (UST)**

A new scene begins here, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Sin (ULT)

Sin (UST)

The word **Sin** here is the Hebrew name of the wilderness. It is not the English word "sin." See how you translated this in [Exodus 16:1](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

**at the mouth of Yahweh (ULT)
Yahweh commanded...to (UST)**

Here, **mouth** refers figuratively to Yahweh's commands (that is, what he says to do). If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "at the command of Yahweh" (See: [Metonymy](#))

**at Rephidim (ULT)
at a place called Rephidim (UST)**

Rephidim means "the resting place," a place to rest on long journeys through the wilderness. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the community of
- the sons of
- Israel
- from the wilderness of
- Yahweh
- water
- for the people

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- from the wilderness of
- water
- for the people

ULT

¹ And all the community of the sons of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, journeying at the mouth of Yahweh. And they camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink.

UST

¹ Then Yahweh commanded all the Israelites to travel from the wilderness of Sin and camp at a place called Rephidim, and they did. However, there was no water there for the people to drink.

Exodus 17:2

Why are you quarreling with me? Why do you test Yahweh (ULT)

You should not quarrel with me! You should not test Yahweh (UST)

Moses uses these questions to scold the people. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "Why are you speaking against me? And why are you trying to test whether Yahweh is able to give you what you need?" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the people](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Moses \(2\)](#)
- [water](#)
- [do you test](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the people](#)
- [Moses again](#)
- [Moses \(2\)](#)
- [water](#)
- [You should not test Yahweh](#)
- [You should not test Yahweh](#)

ULT

² And [the people](#) quarreled with [Moses](#), and they said, "Give us [water](#) to drink." And [Moses](#) said to them, "Why are you quarreling with me? Why [do you test Yahweh](#)?"

UST

² So [the people](#) complained to [Moses again](#), saying, "Give us [water](#) to drink!" [Moses](#) replied to them, "You should not quarrel with me! [You should not test Yahweh!](#)"

Exodus 17:3

Is this why you brought us up from Egypt? To kill me and my sons and my cattle, with thirst (ULT)

You only brought us out here to kill us and our children and cattle by not letting us have any water to drink (UST)

The people use this question to accuse Moses of wanting to kill them. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? Did you bring us here to cause us and our children and animals to die because we have no water to drink?" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the people
- the people
- for water
- Moses
- from Egypt
- To kill
- my sons
- my cattle

Translation Words - UST

- But...were very thirsty
- the people
- they
- Moses
- You only brought us out here to kill us and our children and cattle by not letting us have any water to drink
- You only brought us out here to kill us and our children and cattle by not letting us have any water to drink
- You only brought us out here to kill us and our children and cattle by not letting us have any water to drink
- You only brought us out here to kill us and our children and cattle by not letting us have any water to drink

ULT

³ And the people were thirsty for water there, and the people murmured against Moses. And he said, "Is this why you brought us up from Egypt? To kill me and my sons and my cattle, with thirst?"

UST

³ But the people were very thirsty, and they continued to complain to Moses. They were saying, "You only brought us out here to kill us and our children and cattle by not letting us have any water to drink!"

Exodus 17:4

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- And...cried out
- Yahweh
- for...people
- and they will stone me

Translation Words - UST

- So...prayed
- Moses
- Yahweh
- with...people
- They are...to kill me} by throwing stones {at me

ULT

⁴ And Moses cried out to Yahweh, saying, "What should I do for this people? A little longer and they will stone me."

UST

⁴ So Moses prayed to Yahweh. He said, "How shall I deal with these people? They are almost ready {to kill me} by throwing stones {at me}!"

Exodus 17:5

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- the people
- some of the elders of
- Israel
- and your staff
- the river

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- the people
- some of the elders of
- the Israelite people
- the staff
- the Nile River

ULT

⁵ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Pass before the face of the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel, and your staff, the one with which you struck the river, take in your hand; and go.

UST

⁵ Yahweh said to Moses, “Lead the people and walk in front of them. Take some of the elders of the Israelite people with you. Carry in your hand the staff you used to strike the Nile River.

Exodus 17:6

before your face (ULT) in front of you (UST)

Here, **before your face** means “in front of you.” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- water
- the people
- Moses
- the elders of
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- water
- for the people
- Moses
- the elders
- the elders

ULT

⁶ Behold me! I will stand before your face there on the rock at Horeb. And you will strike on the rock, and water will come from it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so in the eyes of the elders of Israel.

UST

⁶ Watch me! I will stand in front of you on top of a large rock at the foot of Mount Sinai. Strike the rock with your stick. When you do that, water for the people to drink will flow out of the rock.” Moses did what God had said, and the elders saw it happen.

Exodus 17:7

Massah (ULT)

Masseh (UST)

Massah is a place in the desert whose name means “testing” in Hebrew. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

and Meribah (ULT)

and Meribah (UST)

Meribah is a place in the desert whose name means “complaining” in Hebrew. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

or not (ULT)

or not (UST)

In some languages it may be unnatural to explicitly have the negative option included in this question or to have it at the end. It may be omitted or relocated in the question if that is the case.

ULT

⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, for the conflict of the sons of Israel and for their testing of Yahweh by saying, “Is Yahweh among us or not?”

UST

⁷ Moses named that place both Masseh (because the Israelites tested Yahweh by questioning if he was really able to help them or not) and Meribah (because they were complaining all the time to him).

Translation Words - ULT

- And he called
- the name of
- the sons of
- Israel
- their testing of
- Yahweh
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- Moses named
- Moses named
- the Israelites...they
- the Israelites...they
- tested
- Yahweh
- he

Exodus 17:8

And Amalek came (ULT)

Then the people of Amalek came (UST)

A new scene begins here which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Amalek...Israel (ULT)

the people of Amalek...the Israelite people (UST)

Amalek and **Israel** both refer to the nations (people groups) descended from that individual by simply using the name of the ancestor. If your readers would not understand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "the Amalekites ... the Israelites" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Amalek...Israel (ULT)

the people of Amalek...the Israelite people (UST)

Amalek and **Israel** are both collective nouns that refer to the nations (people groups) descended from that individual. If your language does not use singular nouns in that way, you can use a different expression. Alternate translation: "the Amalekites ... the Israelites" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Amalek (ULT)

the people of Amalek (UST)

Amalek or the Amalekites are a completely new participant in the story. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new character. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

at Rephidim (ULT)

at Rephidim (UST)

Rephidim was the name of a place in the desert. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Amalek
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- the people of Amalek
- the Israelite people

ULT

⁸ And **Amalek** came and fought with **Israel** at Rephidim.

UST

⁸ Then **the people of Amalek** came and fought against **the Israelite people** at Rephidim.

Exodus 17:9

Joshua (ULT)

Joshua (UST)

Joshua is a completely new participant in the story. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new character. Later he becomes a major character, but not really in the book of Exodus. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Joshua](#)
- [with Amalek](#)
- [and the staff of](#)
- [God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Joshua](#)
- [against the people of Amalek](#)
- [the staff that](#)
- [God](#)

ULT

⁹ And [Moses](#) said to [Joshua](#), "Choose men for us and go out. Fight [with Amalek](#). Tomorrow I will be stationed on top of the hill, [and the staff of God](#) will be in my hand."

UST

⁹ [Moses](#) said to [Joshua](#), "Choose some men to go out and fight [against the people of Amalek](#) tomorrow. I will stand on the top of the hill, holding [the staff that God](#) told me to carry."

Exodus 17:10

And Joshua did as Moses said to him, to fight Amalek (ULT)

So Joshua obeyed Moses. He {took some men} to fight against the people of Amalek (UST)

Joshua represents himself and the Israelites that he led into battle. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. Alternate translation: “And, as Moses instructed, Joshua and the men he chose fought against the Amalekites” (See: [Synecdoche](#))

and Hur (ULT)

and Hur (UST)

Hur was the name of a man. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

and Hur (ULT)

and Hur (UST)

Hur is a new participant in the story, which you may need to point out in your translation. However, he is a very minor character. He only appears in this passage and once much later in the book, so you may not need to highlight him at all. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Joshua
- Moses
- And Moses
- Amalek
- Aaron

Translation Words - UST

- Joshua
- Moses
- While they were fighting,} Moses
- against the people of Amalek
- Aaron

ULT

¹⁰ And Joshua did as Moses said to him, to fight Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur climbed up to the top of the hill.

UST

¹⁰ So Joshua obeyed Moses. He {took some men} to fight against the people of Amalek. {While they were fighting,} Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill {so that they could see the whole battle area}.

Exodus 17:11

then Israel would be winning...then Amalek would be winning (ULT)

the Israelite men started to win the battle... the Amalekite army started to win (UST)

The words **Israel** and **Amalek** represent the fighters from those groups. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. Alternate translation: “the Israelite fighters were winning ... the Amalekite fighters would begin to win” (See: [Synecdoche](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Amalek](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the Israelite men](#)
- [the Amalekite army](#)

ULT

¹¹ And so it was, when [Moses](#) raised his hand, then [Israel](#) would be winning, and when he set his hand down, then [Amalek](#) would be winning.

UST

¹¹ Then this happened: Whenever [Moses](#) lifted up his arms, [the Israelite men](#) started to win the battle; whenever he lowered his arms, [the Amalekite army](#) started to win.

Exodus 17:12

And the hands of Moses became heavy (ULT) But Moses' arms became tired (UST)

The author writes of Moses' arms becoming tired as if his **hands became heavy**. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "And Moses' arms became tired" (See: [Idiom](#))

one from this, and one from that (ULT) one man on either side of him (UST)

Alternate translation: "one on one side, and one on the other"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)

ULT

¹² And the hands of [Moses](#) became heavy. And they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, [and Aaron](#) and Hur held his hands up, one from this, and one from that. And so his hands were steady until the sun went down.

UST

¹² But [Moses'](#) arms became tired. So [Aaron](#) and Hur brought a large stone for him to sit on. While he was sitting on it, those two held up his arms, one man on either side of him. In that way, they kept his arms lifted up until the sun went down.

Exodus 17:13

with the edge of the sword (ULT) in battle (UST)

The **sword** represents battle. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language.

Alternate translation: "in combat" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Joshua
- Amalek
- his people
- the sword

Translation Words - UST

- Joshua and the men with him
- the Amalekite king
- his army
- in battle

ULT

¹³ And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

UST

¹³ In this way Joshua and the men with him defeated the Amalekite king and his army in battle.

Exodus 17:14

I will certainly blot out the memory of Amalek (ULT)

I will so completely destroy the people of Amalek that...will remember who they were (UST)

God speaks of destroying Amalek as if he were removing people's memory of Amalek. When a group of people is completely destroyed, there is nothing to remind people about them. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "I will completely destroy Amalek" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Amalek (ULT)
the people of Amalek (UST)

The Amalekites are referred to by naming their ancestor. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: Amalekites" (See: [Metonymy](#))

from under the skies (ULT)
no one in the world (UST)

This phrase makes an intentionally broad image and represents all people everywhere. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "from all people everywhere" (See: [Hyperbole](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Joshua](#)
- [I will...blot out](#)
- [the skies](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Joshua](#)
- [I will so completely destroy...that](#)
- [no one in the world](#)

ULT

¹⁴ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Write this memory in the book and put it in the ears of [Joshua](#), because [I will](#) certainly [blot out](#) the memory of Amalek from under [the skies](#)."

UST

¹⁴ Then [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Write an account of this battle and then read it to [Joshua](#). Also write that [I will so completely destroy](#) the people of Amalek [that no one in the world](#) will remember who they were."

Exodus 17:15

is my banner (ULT)

is my flag (UST)

A **banner** is something lifted up high, perhaps like a flag, that people can see from a distance and follow. Alternate translation: “is my military standard” or “is my guidon”

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- an altar
- and he called
- its name
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- a stone altar
- and named it
- and named it
- Yahweh

ULT

¹⁵ And Moses built an altar, and he called its name “Yahweh is my banner.”

UST

¹⁵ Then Moses built a stone altar there and named it “Yahweh is my flag.”

Exodus 17:16

Because a hand was against the throne of Yah (ULT)

Because they fought against him (UST)

The Hebrew here is very difficult, and there are a variety of opinions regarding the meaning. Questions include: (1) Whose hand is referred to? Amalek's, Yahweh's, or Moses'? (2) What is the hand on (or against)? Yahweh's throne or banner? (3) What is the meaning of the Hebrew preposition meaning on, against, or above? What does that signify? Rebellion, or taking an oath, or holding onto a symbol of power? If there is another translation in your region, it may be best to simply follow the interpretation it gives. Alternate translation: "Because a hand was on the throne of Yah" or "Because a hand was on the banner of Yah"

war is to Yahweh against Amalek (ULT)

Yahweh will fight against the people of Amalek (UST)

This phrase has no verbs in Hebrew. You may need to translate the noun **war** as a verb. Alternate translation: "Yahweh will make war with Amalek" or "Yahweh will war against Amalek"

Translation Words - ULT

- Yah
- to Yahweh
- against Amalek
- from generation
- to generation

Translation Words - UST

- they fought against him
- Yahweh
- against the people of Amalek
- forever
- forever

ULT

¹⁶ And he said, "Because a hand was against the throne of Yah, war is to Yahweh against Amalek from generation to generation."

UST

¹⁶ He said, "Because they fought against him, Yahweh will fight against the people of Amalek forever!"

Exodus 18

Exodus 18 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- v. 1-12: Jethro visits Moses and hears all that Yahweh has done
- v. 13-27: Jethro observes Moses and advises him to set up a subsidiarity leadership structure; Moses does so

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Leadership lessons

Jethro taught Moses an important leadership lesson in this chapter. Many scholars look at this chapter for important leadership lessons. Moses delegated some of his responsibilities to other godly men so that he would not become worn out by all the demands made of him. (See: [godly, godliness, ungodly, godless, ungodliness, godlessness](#))

Possible Translation Difficulties

Order of events

The timing of the events in [verse 2](#) is not clear and, whatever their timing, may be difficult to translate. The question: Is Jethro's **taking** Zipporah related to the past event of Moses sending her back to him at some otherwise unmentioned point in time, or is Jethro's **taking** related to his coming to meet Moses in [verse 5](#).

Verse 11

[Verse 11](#) is difficult in the original and requires interpretation.

God and Yahweh

In this chapter, God, who is named Yahweh in much of the rest of the book, is mostly referred to as God instead of by his name as is usual. Translations should not suggest that they are not different beings.

Kinship: Father-in-law

Jethro is the father of Moses' wife. Some languages may make a distinction between that and a woman's father-in-law. If that is the case, note it in verses: 1-2, 5-8, 12, 14-15, 17, 24, and 27. (See: [Kinship](#))

Participant reference

Jethro is often referred to simply as the father-in-law of Moses in this chapter. He is also named explicitly (referred to by name) an unusually high number of times (it would be more usual to have more pronouns referring to him). Frequent use of his name is likely to emphasize his familial ties and authority (or honored status). Some languages may need to alter the way he is referred to for naturalness or to convey the same sense of familial ties and authority (or honored status).

Exodus 18:1

father-in-law of Moses (ULT) and who was also Moses' father-in-law (UST)

The label, **father-in-law of Moses** refers to the father of the wife of Moses. If your language uses a different term for a man's father-in-law than for a woman's father-in-law, choose the appropriate one here. Note the use of this term also in verses: 2, 5-8, 12, 14-15, 17, 24, and 27. Alternate translation: "the father of the wife of Moses" (See: [Kinship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Jethro
- the priest of
- from Egypt
- Midian
- Moses
- for Moses
- God
- and for Israel
- Israel
- his people
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- Jethro
- who was the priest for the people of
- out of Egypt
- Midian
- Moses
- for Moses
- God
- and for...the Israelites
- them
- God's people
- Yahweh

ULT

¹ And Jethro, the priest of Midian, father-in-law of Moses, heard all that God had done for Moses and for Israel his people; that Yahweh brought Israel out from Egypt.

UST

¹ Jethro, who was the priest for the people of Midian, and who was also Moses' father-in-law, heard about all that God had done for Moses and for God's people, the Israelites. He heard about how Yahweh had brought them out of Egypt.

Exodus 18:2

**And Jethro, father-in-law of Moses, took Zipporah, wife of Moses (ULT)
Moses...his wife Zipporah...So when Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came to him, he brought her (UST)**

This could mean: (1) Jethro took Zipporah to Moses, or (2) Jethro had earlier welcomed back Zipporah.

**after he had sent her back (ULT)
had sent...and his two sons} back home {when he was returning to Egypt (UST)**

This is something Moses had done earlier. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "after Moses had sent her home to her father" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Jethro
- Moses
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- Moses...his
- Jethro...he

ULT

² And Jethro, father-in-law of Moses, took Zipporah, wife of Moses, after he had sent her back,

UST

² Moses had sent his wife Zipporah {and his two sons} back home {when he was returning to Egypt}. So when Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, came to him, he brought her

Exodus 18:3

and her two sons (ULT)

and her sons (UST)

This is the ending of the sentence that begins with the words **Jethro** ... **took Zipporah** in [verse 2](#). This could mean: (1) Jethro took Zipporah and her two sons to Moses, or (2) Jethro had earlier welcomed back Zipporah and her two sons.

was Gershom (ULT)

Gershom, which sounds like the Hebrew word that means “foreigner (UST)

Gershom is a son of Moses and Zipporah; his name means “foreigner.” See [2:22](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- her...sons
- names
- a sojourner
- foreign
- in a...land

Translation Words - UST

- sons
- name was
- a foreigner
- another
- living in...land

ULT

³ and her two sons; one of whose names was Gershom, for he had said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.”

UST

³ and her sons. One son's name was Gershom, which sounds like the Hebrew word that means “foreigner,” because Moses had said, “I have been a foreigner living in another land.”

Exodus 18:4

was Eliezer (ULT) Eliezer, which sounds like the Hebrew word that means “God helps me (UST)

Eliezer is a son of Moses and Zipporah; his name means “God is the one who helps me.” (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

from the sword of Pharaoh (ULT) from the king of Egypt killing me (UST)

The phrase **from the sword of Pharaoh** represents being killed by Pharaoh or Pharaoh’s army. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “from being killed by Pharaoh” or “from being killed by Pharaoh’s army” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the name of](#)
- [The God of](#)
- [my father](#)
- [And he rescued me](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Her other son’s name was](#)
- [God, whom](#)
- [my father worshiped](#)
- [and saved me](#)
- [the king of Egypt](#)

ULT

⁴ [And the name of](#) the other was Eliezer, for [“The God of my father](#) was my helper. [And he rescued me](#) from the sword of [Pharaoh.](#)”

UST

⁴ [Her other son’s name was](#) Eliezer, which sounds like the Hebrew word that means “God helps me,” because Moses had said, [“God, whom my father worshiped,](#) has helped me [and saved me](#) from [the king of Egypt](#) killing me.”

Exodus 18:5

and his sons (ULT) and two sons (UST)

Alternate translation: "with his sons"

Translation Words - ULT

- Jethro
- Moses
- Moses
- and his sons
- the wilderness
- God

Translation Words - UST

- in the wilderness
- near...Sinai...God's...holy} mountain
- Jethro
- Moses's
- him
- and two sons

ULT

⁵ And Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, came, and his sons and his wife, to Moses, to the wilderness where he was camping, at the mountain of God.

UST

⁵ While Moses {and the Israelites} camped in the wilderness near {Sinai}, God's {holy} mountain, Jethro (Moses's father-in-law) came to him, bringing along Moses' wife and two sons.

Exodus 18:6

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Jethro
- her...sons

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- Jethro
- and her two sons

ULT

⁶ And he said to Moses, "I, your father-in-law Jethro, am coming to you, and your wife, and her two sons with her."

UST

⁶ Jethro had sent a message to Moses, "I, your father-in-law, Jethro, am coming to see you. I am bringing your wife and her two sons!"

Exodus 18:7

and he bowed down and kissed him (ULT)
He bowed before him and kissed him {on the cheek (UST)}

These were symbolic acts that were the normal way that people showed great respect and devotion in that culture. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- and he bowed down
- and kissed

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- He bowed before
- and kissed...on the cheek

ULT

⁷ And [Moses](#) went out to meet his father-in-law, [and he bowed down and kissed](#) him. And they asked, each man his friend, of their welfare, and they went into the tent.

UST

⁷ So [Moses](#) went out {of the campsite} to meet his father-in-law. [He bowed before him and kissed him {on the cheek}](#). They both asked each other, "Have you been well?" Then they went into {Moses'} tent.

Exodus 18:8

on account of Israel (ULT) in order to help the Israelite people (UST)

The word **Israel** represents the Israelite people. Alternate translation: “in order to help the Israelite people” (See: [Metonymy](#))

all...the hardship that found them (ULT) also...about...the troubles they had experienced (UST)

Moses writes of **hardships** happening to them as if hardships had discovered where they were. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “all the hardships that had happened to them” or “how they had many hard experiences” (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [of Yahweh](#)
- [to Pharaoh](#)
- [and to Egypt](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [the hardship](#)
- [and...rescuing them](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses...He](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [to the king](#)
- [and all the other people in Egypt](#)
- [help the Israelite people](#)
- [the troubles they had experienced](#)
- [and about how...had helped them](#)

ULT

⁸ And [Moses](#) related to his father-in-law all that [Yahweh](#) had done [to Pharaoh and to Egypt](#) on account of [Israel](#), all [the hardship](#) that found them along the way, and [of Yahweh rescuing them](#).

UST

⁸ [Moses](#) told Jethro everything that [Yahweh](#) had done [to the king](#) {[and all the other people in Egypt](#)} in order to [help the Israelite people](#). He also told him about [the troubles they had experienced](#) on the way, [and about how Yahweh had helped them](#).

Exodus 18:9

from the hand of Egypt (ULT) from slavery in Egypt (UST)

The hand represents the power of someone to do something. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "from the power of the Egyptians" or "from what the Egyptians were doing to them" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Jethro
- And...rejoiced
- the good
- Yahweh
- for Israel
- he rescued
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Jethro
- praised Yahweh when he heard
- Yahweh
- had rescued
- the Israelites
- from slavery in Egypt
- and had been very good to them

ULT

⁹ And Jethro rejoiced over all the good that Yahweh had done for Israel, whom he rescued from the hand of Egypt.

UST

⁹ Jethro praised Yahweh when he heard that Yahweh had rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and had been very good to them.

Exodus 18:10

out of the hand of Egypt and out of the hand of Pharaoh...from under the hand of Egypt (ULT)

from the powerful Egyptian {army} and from the powerful Egyptian king...from the control of the Egyptians (UST)

The hand represents the power of someone to do something. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "from the power of the Egyptians and from the power of Pharaoh ... from the power of the Egyptians" or "from what the Egyptians and Pharaoh were doing to you ... from what the Egyptians were doing to you" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Jethro](#)
- [Bless](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [rescued](#)
- [rescued](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [Pharaoh](#)
- [the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [He](#)
- [Praise](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [rescued](#)
- [and has set...free](#)
- [Egyptian {army}](#)
- [the Egyptians](#)
- [Egyptian king](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

ULT

¹⁰ And [Jethro](#) said, "Bless [Yahweh](#), who [rescued](#) you out of the hand of [Egypt](#) and out of the hand of [Pharaoh](#), who [rescued the people](#) from under the hand of [Egypt](#)."

UST

¹⁰ He said, "Praise [Yahweh](#), who has [rescued](#) you from the powerful [Egyptian {army}](#) and from the powerful [Egyptian king](#) and has set the Israelites free from the control of [the Egyptians](#)!"

Exodus 18:11

because of the affair (ULT)

because he rescued (UST)

Here, **because of the matter** probably refers back to Yahweh's rescue of Israel. Alternate translation: "because of what he did"

in} which they acted proudly against them (ULT)

he rescued...the Israelites from their proud enemies (UST)

The most natural referent for **they** is **the gods**, who, perhaps through their agents (Pharaoh and the Egyptians), fought against Yahweh and oppressed the Israelites (**them**). This would connect back to [Exodus 12:12](#) where Yahweh declares that he is bringing judgment on the gods of Egypt. You may need to make some part of this explicit. Alternate translation: "in which they proudly fought Yahweh by oppressing Israel" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

ULT

¹¹ Now I know that Yahweh is greater than all the gods, because of the affair {in} which they acted proudly against them."

UST

¹¹ Now I know that Yahweh is greater than all other gods, because he rescued the Israelites from their proud enemies."

Translation Words - ULT

- I know
- Yahweh
- the gods
- they acted proudly

Translation Words - UST

- I know
- Yahweh
- gods
- the Israelites from their proud enemies

Exodus 18:12

before the face of God (ULT) to honor God (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of God. In this case it likely means that this was a worship event. Alternate translation: "in the presence of God" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Jethro](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [a burnt offering](#)
- [and sacrifices](#)
- [to God](#)
- [God](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [the elders of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [bread](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Jethro](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [a burnt offering](#)
- [and other sacrifices](#)
- [for God](#)
- [to honor God](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [and the Israelite elders](#)
- [and the Israelite elders](#)
- [a meal](#)

ULT

¹² And [Jethro](#), the father-in-law of [Moses](#), took [a burnt offering and sacrifices to God](#). And [Aaron](#) came, and all of [the elders of Israel](#), to eat [bread](#) before the face of [God](#) with the father-in-law of [Moses](#).

UST

¹² Then [Jethro](#) (who was [Moses'](#) father-in-law) brought [a burnt offering and other sacrifices for God](#). [Aaron](#) and the [Israelite elders](#) came and ate [a meal](#) with [Moses'](#) father-in-law [to honor God](#).

Exodus 18:13

And so it happened the next day (ULT)

The next day (UST)

A new scene begins here, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

that Moses sat down to judge (ULT)

Moses sat down at the place where he settled disputes (UST)

Sitting was symbolic of having a position of authority. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "Moses sat down as a judge" (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

from morning until evening (ULT)

from the morning until the evening (UST)

Alternate translation: "all day"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [to judge](#)
- [the people](#)
- [the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [at the place where he settled disputes](#)
- [among the people](#)
- [The people](#)

ULT

¹³ And so it happened the next day that [Moses](#) sat down [to judge the people](#). And [the people](#) stood around [Moses](#) from morning until evening.

UST

¹³ The next day, [Moses](#) sat down [at the place where he settled disputes among the people](#). [The people](#) asked [Moses](#) to judge their disputes from the morning until the evening.

Exodus 18:14

What is this thing that you are doing with the people (ULT)

Do not lead the people this way (UST)

Jethro uses this question to show Moses that what he was doing was not good. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way.

Alternate translation: "You should not be doing all of this for the people!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

For what purpose do you sit alone, and all the people position themselves next to you from morning until evening (ULT)

You should not sit here alone letting everyone demand that you judge for them all day (UST)

Jethro used this question to show Moses that he was doing too much. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "Why are you doing all this for the people? Why are you doing this by yourself, and why are all the people standing around you from morning until evening, asking you to make decisions for them?" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

do you sit alone (ULT)

You should not sit here alone (UST)

The word **sit** here is a metonym for "judge." Judges would sit while they listened to people's complaints. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "do you judge alone" or "are you the only one who judges the people" (See: [Metonymy](#))

position themselves next to you (ULT)

letting everyone demand that you judge for them all day (UST)

The people came to be near Moses so that they could get a chance for him to hear their petitions. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "petition you" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [for the people](#)
- [with the people](#)
- [the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [for the people](#)

ULT

¹⁴ And the father-in-law of [Moses](#) was watching all that he did [for the people](#), and he said, "What is this thing that you are doing [with the people](#)? For what purpose do you sit alone, and all [the people](#) position themselves next to you from morning until evening?"

UST

¹⁴ When Jethro saw everything that [Moses](#) was doing [for the people](#), he said, "Do not lead the people this way. You should not sit here alone [letting everyone demand that you judge for them all day!](#)"

- Do not lead the people this way
- letting everyone demand that you judge for them all day

Exodus 18:15

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- the people
- to inquire of
- God

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- the people
- to find out
- what God desires

ULT

¹⁵ And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God.

UST

¹⁵ Moses replied to his father-in-law, "I am doing this because the people keep coming to me to find out what God desires.

Exodus 18:16

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- And I judge
- and I help them understand
- the statutes of
- God
- his laws

Translation Words - UST

- and they ask me to decide...is right. When I decide
- I also explain to them
- how God's laws and instructions apply in that situation
- how God's laws and instructions apply in that situation
- how God's laws and instructions apply in that situation

ULT

¹⁶ When a situation comes up among them, someone comes to me. **And I judge** between a man and his associate, **and I help them understand the statutes of God and his laws.**"

UST

¹⁶ When they cannot agree about something, they come to me, **and they ask me to decide** which of them **is right.** **When I decide, I also explain to them how God's laws and instructions apply in that situation.**"

Exodus 18:17

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- is...good

Translation Words - UST

- Jethro
- is...beneficial

ULT

¹⁷ And the father-in-law of Moses said to him, "The thing which you are doing is not good.

UST

¹⁷ Jethro said to him, "What you are doing is not beneficial.

Exodus 18:18

You will certainly wear yourself out (ULT) will wear yourselves out (UST)

Alternate translation: "You will surely make yourself very tired"

is too heavy for you (ULT) is...too...much...for you (UST)

Jethro speaks of the hard work that Moses is doing as if it were a physical burden that Moses was carrying. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "is too hard for you" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [people](#)
- [is...heavy](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [people](#)
- [is...much](#)

ULT

¹⁸ You will certainly wear yourself out, both you and also these [people](#) who are with you, because the thing is too [heavy](#) for you. You are not able to do it alone.

UST

¹⁸ You and these [people](#) will wear yourselves out! This work is too [much](#) for you. You are not able to do it by yourself.

Exodus 18:19**I will advise you (ULT)
to what I will tell you to do...what I suggest
(UST)**

Alternate translation: "I will guide you" or "I will instruct you"

**and God will be with you (ULT)
If you do...God will help you (UST)**

Jethro speaks of God helping Moses as if God would be with Moses. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "God will help you" or "God will give you wisdom" (See: [Metaphor](#))

**and you should bring their disputes to God yourself (ULT)
You...and tell him about the people's disputes (UST)**

Jethro speaks of Moses telling God about their disputes as if they were something that Moses was bringing to God. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "and you tell God about their disputes" or "and you tell God what they are arguing about" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [to my voice](#)
- [I will advise you](#)
- [God](#)
- [God](#)
- [God](#)
- [for the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [to what I will tell you to do...what I suggest](#)
- [to what I will tell you to do...what I suggest](#)
- [God](#)
- [to God](#)
- [him](#)
- [the people](#)

ULT

¹⁹ Now, listen [to my voice](#). [I will advise you](#), and [God](#) will be with you. You be before [God for the people](#), and you should bring their disputes to [God](#) yourself.

UST

¹⁹ Now listen [to what I will tell you to do](#). If you do [what I suggest](#), [God](#) will help you. You should continue to represent [the people to God](#) and tell [him](#) about the people's disputes.

Exodus 18:20

And you should cause them to know the way they should walk in (ULT)

You should also explain to them how they should act (UST)

Jethro speaks of living or behaving like walking. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "You must show them how to live" or "You must show them how to behave" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the statutes](#)
- [the laws](#)
- [And you should cause...to know](#)
- [they should walk](#)
- [the work](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [God's law](#)
- [instructions](#)
- [You should also explain](#)
- [how they should act](#)
- [the things](#)

ULT

²⁰ And you should teach them [the statutes](#) and [the laws](#). [And you should cause](#) them [to know](#) the way [they should walk](#) in and [the work](#) that they should do.

UST

²⁰ You should also teach them [God's law](#) and [instructions](#). [You should also explain](#) to them [how they should act](#) and [the things](#) that they should do.

Exodus 18:21

**And you yourself should search out (ULT)
In addition, you should find...Choose (UST)**

Alternate translation: "As for you, search out" or "You must also search out"

**And you should appoint over them (ULT)
to help you...Appoint...to make decisions (UST)**

Jethro speaks of giving them authority over people as putting them over people. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "You should select leaders for the people" (See: [Metaphor](#))

**And you should appoint over them (ULT)
to help you...Appoint...to make decisions (UST)**

Here, **them** refers to the Israelites. Moses is advised to place good men in charge of groups of Israelites. Alternate translation: "And you must appoint these men over the Israelites" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

**leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, and leaders of tens (ULT)
some of them...for groups of ten people, some for groups of fifty people, some for groups of a hundred people, and some for groups of a thousand people (UST)**

This could mean: (1) these numbers represent the exact amount of people in each group. Alternate translation: "leaders in charge of groups of 1,000 people, groups of 100 people, groups of 50 people, and groups of 10 people" or (2) these numbers are not exact, but represent groups of people of various sizes. Alternate translation: "leaders in charge of very small groups, small groups, large groups, and very large groups" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the people](#)
- [fearers of](#)
- [God](#)
- [faithfulness](#)
- [And you should appoint](#)
- [leaders of](#)
- [leaders of](#)
- [leaders of](#)
- [and leaders of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Israelite](#)

ULT

²¹ And you yourself should search out from all of [the people](#) men of ability, [fearers of God](#), men of [faithfulness](#), haters of dishonest profit. [And you should appoint](#) over them: [leaders of thousands](#), [leaders of hundreds](#), [leaders of fifties](#), and [leaders of tens](#).

UST

²¹ In addition, you should find some capable [Israelite](#) men [to help you](#). Choose [men who respect God, who are trustworthy](#), and who will not accept bribes. [Appoint some of them](#) to make decisions [for groups of ten people](#), [some for groups of fifty people](#), [some for groups of a hundred people](#), and [some for groups of a thousand people](#).

- to help you...Appoint
- men who respect God
- men who respect God
- who are trustworthy
- and some for groups of a thousand people
- some for groups of a hundred people
- some for groups of fifty people
- some of them...for groups of ten people

Exodus 18:22

every great situation they will bring to you (ULT)

The difficult matters they can bring to you (UST)

By **every great situation they will bring to you**, Jethro is recommending that the new leaders should pass the most difficult cases to Moses for him to judge them. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “the difficult cases they will tell you about” or “when there are difficult cases, they will tell you about them so you could judge them” (See: [Metaphor](#))

And you must lighten {this thing} from on you! And they will carry alongside you (ULT)
Do this to make the work easier for you as they help you do that work (UST)

Jethro speaks of the hard work that they would do as if it were something that they would carry beside Moses and make lighter for Moses by helping him. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “and lessen your work by having them do the hard work with you” or “and make your work easier by having them help you do the hard work” (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And they will judge](#)
- [they will judge](#)
- [the people](#)
- [times](#)
- [And they will carry](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Allow them to settle disputes](#)
- [they can decide](#)
- [for the people](#)
- [usually](#)
- [as they help you do that work](#)

ULT

²² [And they will judge the people](#) at all [times](#). And so it will be, every great situation they will bring to you, and every small situation [they will judge](#) themselves. And you must lighten {this thing} from on you! [And they will carry](#) alongside you.

UST

²² [Allow them to settle disputes for the people usually](#). It should work like this: The difficult matters they can bring to you, but the matters that are simple, [they can decide](#) themselves. Do this to make the work easier for you [as they help you do that work](#).

Exodus 18:23

then you will be able to endure (ULT)
you will be able...continue doing (UST)

Alternate translation: "then you will not wear yourself out"

all of this people will go to its place in peace (ULT)

all the people will be able to live peacefully with each other (UST)

Here, getting **to their place** could mean each person's home tent or it could mean the whole group gets to the promised land. If you cannot leave it ambiguous, it would be best to indicate something like "harmony in the camp." Alternate translation: "all these people will live in harmony"

ULT

²³ If you do this thing, and **God instructs you**, then you will be able to endure, and furthermore, all of this **people** will go to its place **in peace**."

UST

²³ If you do that, you will be able to continue doing **what God commands**, and all **the people** will be able to live **peacefully** with each other."

Translation Words - ULT

- God
- and...instructs you
- people
- in peace

Translation Words - UST

- to...what...commands
- God
- the people
- peacefully

Exodus 18:24

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- to the voice of

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- to his

ULT

²⁴ And Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did everything that he had said.

UST

²⁴ Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that Jethro told him.

Exodus 18:25

heads over the people (ULT) chiefs over the people (UST)

Moses writes of the leaders of people as if they were the **head** of a body. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “leaders over the people” (See: [Metaphor](#))

men of ability (ULT) capable men (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, what sort of ability they had can be stated clearly. Alternate translation: “men who were able to lead” or “men who were able to judge” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, and leaders of tens (ULT) rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens (UST)

This could mean: (1) these numbers represent the exact amount of people in each group. Alternate translation: “leaders in charge of groups of 1,000 people, groups of 100 people, groups of 50 people, and groups of 10 people” or (2) these numbers are not exact, but represent groups of people of various sizes. Alternate translation: “leaders in charge of very small groups, small groups, large groups, and very large groups” See how you translated this in [Exodus 18:21](#). (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [and he appointed](#)
- [heads](#)
- [the people](#)
- [leaders of](#)
- [leaders of](#)
- [leaders of](#)
- [and leaders of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [and made](#)
- [chiefs](#)
- [the people](#)
- [rulers of](#)
- [rulers of](#)
- [rulers of](#)

ULT

²⁵ And [Moses](#) chose men of ability from all [Israel](#), and he appointed them [heads](#) over [the people](#), [leaders of thousands](#), [leaders of hundreds](#), [leaders of fifties](#), and [leaders of tens](#).

UST

²⁵ Then [Moses](#) chose capable men from among [the Israelite people](#) and made them [chiefs](#) over [the people](#), [rulers of thousands](#), [rulers of hundreds](#), [rulers of fifties](#), and [rulers of tens](#).

- and rulers of

Exodus 18:26**And they judged the people at all times (ULT)
They usually settled disputes for the people (UST)**

Alternate translation: "They judged the people most of the time" or "They judged the people in all regular circumstances"

**They brought the difficult situations to Moses (ULT)
They brought the difficult cases to Moses (UST)**

The author writes of telling Moses about the difficult cases as bringing him the difficult cases. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "They told Moses about the difficult cases" or "When there were difficult cases, they told Moses about them so that he would judge them" (See: [Metaphor](#))

**small situation (ULT)
the simple cases (UST)**

Alternate translation: "easy case"

Translation Words - ULT

- [And they judged](#)
- [they judged](#)
- [the people](#)
- [times](#)
- [difficult](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [They...settled disputes](#)
- [they decided](#)
- [usually](#)
- [for the people](#)
- [difficult](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

²⁶ [And they judged the people](#) at all [times](#). They brought the [difficult](#) situations to [Moses](#), and [they judged](#) each small situation themselves.

UST

²⁶ [They usually settled disputes for the people](#). They brought the [difficult](#) cases to [Moses](#), but [they decided](#) the simple cases by themselves.

Exodus 18:27

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- land

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- returned home

ULT

²⁷ And Moses let his father-in-law go, and he went into his own land.

UST

²⁷ Then Moses said goodbye to his father-in-law, and Jethro returned home.

Exodus 19

Exodus 19 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

This chapter consist of a series of Moses going up Mount Sinai, talking to Yahweh, coming down, and talking to the people. He is being the intermediary, carrying messages between Yahweh and the people. - v. 1-2: Arrival at Sinai - v. 3-8: First cycle of Moses going up and down for instruction and response - v. 9-15: Second cycle, people get ready to hear God - v. 16-19: God speaks to the people from the mountain - v. 20-25: Third cycle

Special Concepts in this Chapter

“A kingdom of priests”

The function of the priests was to intercede for the people. The Levites were the only priests in Israel; this is a metaphor indicating that the nation was to intercede for the world as a whole. They were also to be holy, or set apart, from the rest of the world. (See: [priest](#), [priesthood](#) and [Metaphor](#) and [holy](#), [holiness](#), [unholy](#), [sacred](#))

Revealing the law

The events of this chapter are concerned with preparing the people to receive the law of Moses. The people go through all of this to prepare themselves for the law, which shows the great importance of this event for Israel. (See: [law](#), [law of Moses](#), [law of Yahweh](#), [law of God](#))

Boundaries between Yahweh and the people

Moses is told to make the people holy in preparation for meeting Yahweh, then boundaries are set up to keep the people separate from Yahweh, and then the priests are told to make themselves holy. The theme of a holy separation is beginning to be developed that will become much of the law code.

Exodus 19:1

In the third month...on the same day (ULT) the third month...On the first day of (UST)

This means they arrived at the wilderness on the first day of the month just as they left Egypt on the first day of the month. The first day of the third month on the Hebrew calendar is near the middle of May on Western calendars. If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "In the month 3 ... on the day 1 of the month" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [In the...month](#)
- [the people of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [on the...day](#)
- [the wilderness of](#)
- [Sinai](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [On the first day of](#)
- [month](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [at the wilderness of](#)
- [Sinai](#)

ULT

¹ [In the](#) third [month](#) from [the people of Israel](#) exiting [the land of Egypt](#), [on the same day](#), they entered [the wilderness of Sinai](#).

UST

¹ [On the first day of](#) the third [month](#) after [the Israelites](#) left [Egypt](#), they arrived [at the wilderness of Sinai](#).

Exodus 19:2

from Rephidim (ULT)

Rephidim (UST)

Rephidim is an area on the edge of the wilderness of Sinai where the people of Israel had been camping. See how you translated this name in [Exodus 17:1](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the wilderness of](#)
- [in the wilderness](#)
- [Sinai](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the wilderness of](#)
- [the wilderness of](#)
- [Sinai](#)
- [and they set up](#)

ULT

² And they departed from Rephidim, and they entered [the wilderness of Sinai](#), and they camped [in the wilderness](#). And [Israel](#) camped there in front of the mountain.

UST

² After they left Rephidim, they came to [the wilderness of Sinai](#), and they set up their tents at the base of the mountain.

Exodus 19:3

you shall speak to the house of Jacob, and you shall tell the sons of Israel (ULT)

I want you to say to the Israelite people, the descendants of Jacob (UST)

These two phrases have exactly the same meaning. This may be for poetic effect, as Yahweh's statement here through [verse 6](#) is somewhat artfully crafted. You may need to use a strategy other than parallelism to achieve a similar poetic effect in your language. (See: [Parallelism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And Moses](#)
- [God](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [and...called](#)
- [to the house of](#)
- [Jacob](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [God](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [called](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [the descendants of Jacob](#)
- [the descendants of Jacob](#)

ULT

³ [And Moses](#) went up to [God](#), and [Yahweh called](#) to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall speak [to the house of Jacob](#), and you shall tell [the sons of Israel](#):"

UST

³ [Moses](#) climbed up {the mountain to talk} with [God](#). [Yahweh called](#) to him from {the top} of the mountain and said, "This is what I want you to say to [the Israelite people, the descendants of Jacob](#),"

Exodus 19:4

You yourselves saw (ULT)

You have seen (UST)

The word **you** here refers to the Israelites. Yahweh is telling Moses what to tell the Israelites. If your language has a plural form of you, you would need it here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

how I carried you on the wings of eagles (ULT)

You have seen what I did for you...as if I had carried you on top of eagles' wings (UST)

God speaks of caring for his people while they traveled as if he were an eagle and carried them on his **wings**. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: " how I helped you travel like an eagle that carries her babies on her wings" (See: [Metaphor](#))

ULT

⁴You yourselves saw what I did [to the Egyptians](#), how I carried you on the wings of eagles and brought you to myself.

UST

⁴You have seen what I did [to the Egyptians](#). You have seen what I did for you and how I brought you here to me as if I had carried you on top of eagles' wings.

Translation Words - ULT

- [to the Egyptians](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [to the Egyptians](#)

Exodus 19:5

to my voice (ULT)

what I tell you to do (UST)

God's voice represents what he says. Alternate translation: "to what I say" or "to my words" (See: [Metonymy](#))

and keep my covenant (ULT)

and obey all that I require in what we agreed by swearing to (UST)

Alternate translation: "and do what my covenant requires you to do"

possession (ULT)

my own people...my personal property (UST)

Alternate translation: "treasure"

Translation Words - ULT

- [to my voice](#)
- [my covenant](#)
- [possession](#)
- [peoples](#)
- [the earth](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [what I tell you to do](#)
- [in what we agreed by swearing to](#)
- [my own people...my personal property](#)
- [the nations](#)
- [the earth](#)

ULT

⁵ And now, if you listen intently [to my voice](#) and keep [my covenant](#), then you will be my [possession](#) from among all [peoples](#). For all [the earth](#) is mine,

UST

⁵ Therefore, if you very carefully do [what I tell you to do](#) and obey all that I require [in what we agreed by swearing to](#), you will be [my own people](#). You will be [my personal property](#) from among all of [the nations](#). Although all [the earth](#) is mine,

Exodus 19:6

my kingdom of priests (ULT)

my priestly kingdom (UST)

God speaks of his people as if they were **priests**. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “my kingdom of people who are like priests” or “my kingdom of people who do what priests do” (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- kingdom of
- priests
- holy
- and...nation
- the sons of
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- priestly
- kingdom
- and a nation dedicated to me
- and a nation dedicated to me
- the Israelites
- the Israelites

ULT

⁶ and you yourselves will be my [kingdom of priests](#) and [holy nation](#).' These are the words that you shall speak to [the sons of Israel](#)."

UST

⁶ you will be my [priestly kingdom](#) and a [nation dedicated to me](#).' That is what you must tell [the Israelites](#)."

Exodus 19:7

And he set before their faces all these words (ULT)

He told them everything (UST)

Moses setting the words before them means that he was telling people things. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "And he told them all these words" (See: [Metaphor](#))

before their faces (ULT)
them (UST)

Here, **face** means the person. Alternate translation: "before them" (See: [Metonymy](#))

all...these words that Yahweh had commanded him (ULT)
He told...everything...that Yahweh had told him to tell them (UST)

Alternate translation: "all that Yahweh had commanded him"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [and summoned](#)
- [the elders](#)
- [of the people](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded him](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [and called](#)
- [the elders of](#)
- [the people](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had told him to tell them](#)

ULT

⁷ And [Moses](#) came [and summoned the elders of the people](#). And he set before their faces all these words that [Yahweh had commanded him](#).

UST

⁷ So [Moses](#) went down the mountain [and called the elders of the people](#). He told them everything that [Yahweh had told him to tell them](#).

Exodus 19:8

And Moses brought the words of the people back (ULT)

Then Moses climbed back up the mountain and reported...what the people had said (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, where Moses went can be stated explicitly. Alternate translation: "Moses went back up the mountain to report the words of the people" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

the words of the people (ULT)
what the people had said (UST)

Here, **words** refers to what the people said. Alternate translation: "what the people said" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the people](#)
- [the people](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The people](#)
- [the people](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

⁸ And all [the people](#) responded together, and they said, "We will do everything that [Yahweh](#) has said." And [Moses](#) brought the words of [the people](#) back to [Yahweh](#).

UST

⁸ [The people](#) all said, "We will do everything that [Yahweh](#) has told us to do." Then [Moses](#) climbed back up the mountain and reported to [Yahweh](#) what [the people](#) had said.

Exodus 19:9

the words of the people (ULT) what the people said (UST)

Here, **words** refers to what the people said. Alternate translation: “what the people said” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- Moses
- Moses
- the people
- the people
- may...trust
- forever

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- Moses
- Moses
- the people
- the people
- they will...believe
- always

ULT

⁹ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Look, I will come to you in a thick cloud so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also trust in you forever.” And Moses told the words of the people to Yahweh.

UST

⁹ Then Yahweh said to Moses “Listen carefully. I will come to you from inside a thick cloud. When I am speaking to you, the people will hear it, and they will always believe that you are their leader.” Then Moses told Yahweh what the people said.

Exodus 19:10

**and make them holy (ULT)
Tell them to get ready for my coming.} They
must purify themselves (UST)**

This may mean instruct the people, or it may mean Moses will have a role as well. Alternate translation: “and tell them to dedicate themselves to me” or “and help them to purify themselves for me”

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- the people
- and make them holy
- today

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- the people
- Tell them to get ready for my coming.} They must purify themselves
- today

ULT

¹⁰ And Yahweh said to Moses, “Go to the people and make them holy today and tomorrow, and have them wash their clothing,

UST

¹⁰ Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Go back down to the people again. {Tell them to get ready for my coming.} They must purify themselves today and tomorrow. They must also wash their clothes

Exodus 19:11

before the eyes (ULT) to where...can see me (UST)

Here, **before the eyes** means “so they can see.” If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. See the UST. (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [for the...day](#)
- [day...on the](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Sinai](#)
- [the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [on the...day](#)
- [On that day](#)
- [I](#)
- [Sinai](#)
- [the people](#)

ULT

¹¹ and they will be prepared [for the third day](#); for [on the third day](#) Yahweh will come down to Mount [Sinai](#) before the eyes of all [the people](#).

UST

¹¹ so they will be ready [on the third day](#). [On that day](#) I will come down to Mount [Sinai](#) to where all [the people](#) can see me.

Exodus 19:12

And you shall set boundaries (ULT)

You must make a boundary (UST)

The **boundary** was either a mark or some kind of barrier.

saying, 'Watch yourselves (ULT)

Tell them, 'Be sure that you (UST)

A second-level direct quotation begins with **watch**. It is not clear where this command that Moses is to give the Israelites ends. Most English translations end it in [verse 13](#) before the last sentence. For that reason, it may be most helpful to translate the instruction as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: "telling them to watch themselves" (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

Watch yourselves climbing on the mountain

or touching on its edge (ULT)

Be sure that you do not climb the mountain or even touch it (UST)

Here, the negative command is implied from the **watch yourselves** command. Alternate translation: "Watch yourselves against climbing on the mountain or touching on its edge"

Every mountain toucher...certainly (ULT)

You must kill anyone who touches the base of the mountain (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "You must surely put to death any person who touches the mountain" or "You must surely kill anyone who touches the mountain" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [for the people](#)
- [Watch](#)
- [shall...be killed](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [to protect the people](#)
- [Be sure that](#)
- [You must kill](#)

ULT

¹² And you shall set boundaries [for the people](#) all around, saying, 'Watch yourselves climbing on the mountain or touching on its edge. Every mountain toucher shall certainly [be killed](#).

UST

¹² You must make a boundary around the base of the mountain [to protect the people](#). Tell them, 'Be sure that you do not climb the mountain or even touch it. [You must kill](#) anyone who touches the base of the mountain.

Exodus 19:13

No hand shall touch that one (ULT)
Do not let anyone touch any person or any animal that touches the mountain...that touches the mountain (UST)

Here, **hand** is a metonym for any part of a person. Alternate translation: "No person shall touch that one" (See: [Metonymy](#))

he shall be stoned or he shall be shot (ULT)
by throwing stones at it or shooting it with arrows (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "you must certainly stone or shoot him" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

he shall be shot (ULT)
shooting it with arrows (UST)

This refers to being killed by someone who shoots arrows from a bow.

shall ascend (ULT)
can come close (UST)

If you translate this with come or go, consider which would be the correct perspective for your language and the text context. Yahweh is speaking, so "come up" is valid; however, the people will be the ones moving, so "go up" is valid as well. (See: [Go and Come](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [hand](#)
- [he shall be stoned](#)
- [animal](#)
- [he shall...live](#)
- [the horn](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Do...let anyone touch...that touches the mountain...that touches the mountain](#)
- [you must kill](#)
- [or animal](#)
- [by throwing stones at it](#)
- [trumpet](#)

ULT

¹³ No [hand](#) shall touch that one. Instead, [he shall be stoned](#) or he shall be shot. Whether [animal](#) or human, [he shall not live.](#)' At the prolonged sound of [the horn](#), they shall ascend on the mountain."

UST

¹³ Do not [let anyone touch](#) any person or any animal [that touches the mountain](#). Therefore, [you must kill](#) any person [or animal that touches the mountain by throwing stones at it](#) or shooting it with arrows.' But when you hear a long, loud [trumpet](#) sound, the people can come close to the base of the mountain."

Exodus 19:14

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- the people
- the people
- And he made...holy

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- and told...to purify {themselves and to get ready for Yahweh's coming. They did what Moses told them to do
- the people
- the people

ULT

¹⁴ And Moses went down from the mountain to the people. And he made the people holy, and they washed their clothing.

UST

¹⁴ So Moses went down the mountain again and told the people to purify {themselves and to get ready for Yahweh's coming. They did what Moses told them to do,} and they also washed their clothes.

Exodus 19:15

**you shall not come near to a woman (ULT)
and you men must not have sexual relations
with any women {until after then (UST)**

This is a polite way of talking about sexual relations. If this would be misunderstood in your language, use a different polite way of referring to this or you could state this plainly. Alternate translation: "do not sleep with your wives" (See: [Euphemism](#))

**a woman (ULT)
any women {until after then (UST)**

This word means both "woman" and "wife." Context dictates the correct translation. Since wife would make it a narrower command, **woman** was chosen here.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the people](#)
- [the...day](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the people](#)
- [day](#)

ULT

¹⁵ And he said to [the people](#), "Be prepared by the third [day](#); you shall not come near to a woman."

UST

¹⁵ Then Moses said to [the people](#), "Be ready on the third [day](#), and you men must not have sexual relations with any women {until after then}."

Exodus 19:16

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- on the...day
- strong
- horn
- the people
- And...were trembling

Translation Words - UST

- On the third day
- loud
- horn
- The people
- shook because they were very afraid

ULT

16 And it happened on the third day, when it was the morning, there were thunder and lightning and a heavy cloud on the mountain, and an extremely strong horn sound. And all the people who were in the camp were trembling.

UST

16 On the third day, during the morning, there was thunder, lightning, a very dark cloud on the mountain, and a very loud horn sound. The people in the camp shook because they were very afraid.

Exodus 19:17

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- the people
- God

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- the people
- with God

ULT

¹⁷ And Moses brought the people out from the camp to meet God, and they stationed themselves at the bottom of the mountain.

UST

¹⁷ Then Moses led the people outside the camp to meet with God. They stood around the base of the mountain.

Exodus 19:18

descended...Yahweh (ULT)

Then...descended...Yahweh (UST)

Alternate translation: "Yahweh came down"

like the smoke of a furnace (ULT)

like the smoke from the chimney of a furnace (UST)

This shows that it was a very large amount of smoke. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent comparison or express this meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "like the smoke from a very large fire" (See: [Simile](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Sinai](#)
- [because](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [in fire](#)
- [a furnace](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Sinai](#)
- [surrounded by fire](#)
- [That caused](#)
- [the chimney of a furnace](#)

ULT

¹⁸ And Mount [Sinai](#) smoked—all of it—[because Yahweh](#) descended on it [in fire](#). And its smoke went up like the smoke of [a furnace](#), and the whole mountain trembled mightily.

UST

¹⁸ Then [Yahweh](#) descended on Mount [Sinai](#), [surrounded by fire](#). [That caused](#) the entire mountain to smoke. The smoke rose up like the smoke from [the chimney of a furnace](#), and the whole mountain shook violently.

Exodus 19:19

went very strong (ULT) continued to become louder (UST)

Alternate translation: "continued to become louder and louder"

in a voice (ULT) in a thunderous voice (UST)

The word **voice** here refers to a sound that God made. This could mean: (1) "by speaking loudly like thunder" or (2) "by speaking" or (3) "by causing thunder to sound" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the horn](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [and God](#)
- [in a voice](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the horn](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [and God](#)
- [in a thunderous voice](#)

ULT

¹⁹ And it happened, the sound of [the horn](#) went very strong. [Moses](#) was speaking, [and God](#) was answering him [in a voice](#).

UST

¹⁹ As the sound of [the horn](#) continued to become louder, [Moses](#) spoke to God, [and God](#) answered him [in a thunderous voice](#).

Exodus 19:20

And...descended...And...ascended (ULT) Then...came down again...So...went up (UST)

You may need to consider your language's rules for perspective regarding going or coming up or down in this verse. (See: [Go and Come](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Sinai](#)
- [and...called](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [he](#)
- [Sinai](#)
- [and...summoned](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

²⁰ And [Yahweh](#) descended on Mount [Sinai](#), to the top of the mountain, and [Yahweh called Moses](#) to the top of the mountain. And [Moses](#) ascended.

UST

²⁰ Then [Yahweh](#) came down again onto the top of Mount [Sinai](#), and [he summoned Moses](#) to come up to the top of the mountain. So [Moses](#) went up.

Exodus 19:21

lest they break through (ULT) not to cross the boundary...If they do that (UST)

God spoke about walking past the boundary as if they might break down a barrier and walk through it. See how you translated “set bounds” in [Exodus 19:12](#). If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “not to go beyond the boundary” or “not to go through the barrier” (See: [Metaphor](#))

and...fall (ULT) will die (UST)

Here, **fall** refers to dying. This is a polite way of referring to something unpleasant. If this would be misunderstood in your language, use a different polite way of referring to this or you could state this plainly. (See: [Euphemism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh \(2\)](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [me \(2\)](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the people](#)

ULT

²¹ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), “Go down and warn [the people](#) lest they break through to [Yahweh](#) to see and many from them fall.

UST

²¹ [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), “Go down again and warn [the people](#) not to cross the boundary in order to look at [me](#). If they do that, many of them will die.

Exodus 19:22

Yahweh bursts out against them (ULT)

I will punish them (UST)

Yahweh's anger and judgment are pictured as something that will **burst** through a boundary. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "Yahweh kills them in anger" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the priests](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [they shall make themselves holy](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the priests](#)
- [me](#)
- [I](#)
- [must purify themselves](#)

ULT

²² And furthermore, [the priests](#), the ones who come near to [Yahweh](#), [they shall make themselves holy](#) lest [Yahweh](#) bursts out against them."

UST

²² Also, [the priests](#) who come near [me](#) [must purify themselves](#). If they do not do that, [I](#) will punish them."

Exodus 19:23

us, saying: 'Set boundaries on the mountain and set it apart (ULT)

them, saying, 'Set a boundary around the mountain, to consecrate it (UST)

This quoted command could be translated as an indirect quotation.
Alternate translation: "us to set boundaries on the mountain to keep it separate" (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [The people](#)
- [Sinai](#)
- [and set it apart](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [The people](#)
- [the mountain](#)
- [to consecrate it](#)

ULT

²³ And [Moses](#) said to [Yahweh](#), "[The people](#) are not able to come up on Mount [Sinai](#), for you yourself warned us, saying: 'Set boundaries on the mountain [and set it apart.](#)'"

UST

²³ Then [Moses](#) said to [Yahweh](#), "[The people](#) will not climb [the mountain](#) because you commanded them, saying, 'Set a boundary around the mountain, [to consecrate it.](#)'"

Exodus 19:24

Go, climb down (ULT)

Go down the mountain (UST)

Alternate translation: "Go down"

shall not break through (ULT)

do not allow...to cross the boundary (UST)

God spoke about walking past the boundary as if they might **break** down a barrier and walk through it. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 19:21](#). If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "must not go beyond the boundary" or "must not go through the barrier" (See: [Metaphor](#))

he burst out against them (ULT)

I will punish them (UST)

Yahweh's anger and judgment are pictured as something that will **burst** forth from him. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 19:22](#). If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "he kill them in anger" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- and Aaron
- and the priests
- and the people

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- me
- Aaron
- But...the priests
- or other people

ULT

²⁴ And Yahweh said to him, "Go, climb down. And you shall come back up, you and Aaron with you; and the priests and the people shall not break through to come up to Yahweh, lest he burst out against them."

UST

²⁴ Yahweh said to Moses, "Go down the mountain and bring Aaron back up with you. But do not allow the priests or other people to cross the boundary to come up to me. If they cross it, I will punish them."

Exodus 19:25

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- the people

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- the people

ULT

²⁵ And Moses went down to the people, and he spoke to them.

UST

²⁵ So Moses went down the mountain again and told the people what Yahweh had said.

Exodus 20

Exodus 20 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- v. 1-17: Yahweh gives the Ten Commandments
- v. 18-21: the people react
- v. 22-26: Yahweh gives a little more explanation about idols and altars

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Covenant

Yahweh's covenant faithfulness is now based on the covenant he made with Abraham as well as the covenant he is making with Moses. (See: [covenant faithfulness](#), [covenant loyalty](#), [covenant love](#) and [covenant](#))

Form of you

The singular form of you is used in the commandments; however, the commandments applied to the whole Israelite community. There is both a singular and a corporate aspect to them. You may need to choose between singular and plural if your language makes that distinction. (See: [Singular Pronouns that refer to Groups](#))

Exodus 20:1

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- God

Translation Words - UST

- God

ULT

¹ God spoke all these words, saying:

UST

¹ Then God spoke these words to the Israelites.

Exodus 20:2

from the house of slavery (ULT) from being slaves there (UST)

Yahweh speaks of **Egypt** as if it were a **house** where people keep slaves. See how you translated this in [Exodus 13:3](#). If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "from the place where you were slaves" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- I am Yahweh
- your God
- from the land of
- Egypt
- from the house of
- slavery

Translation Words - UST

- I am Yahweh...I am...I am
- your God, the one you worship...the one...the one
- of the land of Egypt
- of the land of Egypt
- from being slaves there
- from being slaves there

ULT

² "I am Yahweh your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

UST

² "I am Yahweh your God, the one you worship. I am the one who brought you out of the land of Egypt. I am the one who freed you from being slaves there.

Exodus 20:3

There shall not be to you other gods above my face (ULT)

Do not worship any god other than me (UST)

Alternate translation: "You must not worship any other gods besides me"

Translation Words - ULT

- gods

Translation Words - UST

- god

ULT

³ There shall not be to you other gods above my face.

UST

³ Do not worship any god other than me.

Exodus 20:4

**or the likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth (ULT)
that looks like anything in the sky or that is on the ground or that is in the water under the ground (UST)**

This list means all created things wherever they are. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “nor anything that looks like anything created, whether that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth” (See: [Merism](#))

**or the likeness of anything (ULT)
looks like anything (UST)**

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **likeness**, you can express the same idea in another way. Alternate translation: “nor anything looking like something” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a carved figure
- in heaven
- in the earth
- the earth
- in the water

Translation Words - UST

- Do...carve...a figure
- in the sky
- is on the ground
- the ground
- is in the water

ULT

⁴ You shall not make for yourself a carved figure or the likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.

UST

⁴ Do not carve yourself a figure that looks like anything in the sky or that is on the ground or that is in the water under the ground.

Exodus 20:5

to them (ULT) to any idol (UST)

Here, **them** refers to carved figures or idols. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

the sons on the third and on the fourth (ULT) the descendants...their descendants...for three, even four generations (UST)

Alternate translation: "Generation" is implied by **sons**, therefore **third and fourth** refers to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. Alternate translation: "the sons down to the third and fourth generations" or "and even on the grandchildren and great-grandchildren" (See: [Ellipsis](#))

on the third and on the fourth (ULT) for three, even four generations (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "to generations 3 and 4"(See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- You shall...bow down
- the sons
- you shall...serve them
- I, Yahweh
- your God
- God
- am a jealous
- the iniquity of
- the fathers

Translation Words - UST

- Do...bow down
- worship it
- I am Yahweh
- your God
- I
- demand that you worship me only
- I will punish...I will punish
- the descendants...their descendants
- of those who hate me

ULT

⁵ You shall not bow down to them and you shall not serve them, for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God. I visit the iniquity of the fathers on the sons on the third and on the fourth of the haters of me.

UST

⁵ Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am Yahweh your God. I demand that you worship me only! I will punish the descendants of those who hate me. I will punish their descendants for three, even four generations.

Exodus 20:6

**But I show covenant faithfulness to thousands, to lovers of me (ULT)
However, I will faithfully love thousands of generations of those who love me (UST)**

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **faithfulness**, you can express the same idea in another way. Alternate translation: "I am faithful to the covenant with thousands of those who love me" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

**to thousands (ULT)
thousands of generations (UST)**

Alternate translation: "Generation" is implied by the previous verse. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply necessary words from the context. Alternate translation: "to the thousandth generation" or "for a thousand generations" (See: [Ellipsis](#))

**to thousands, to lovers of me (ULT)
thousands of generations of those who love me (UST)**

Here, **thousands** may mean: (1) "forever," that is, "to all descendants forever" (2) a number too many to count. Alternate translation: "for every generation" or "forever to innumerable people who love me" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [covenant faithfulness](#)
- [to lovers of me](#)
- [my commandments](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [However, I will faithfully love](#)
- [of those who love me](#)
- [my commandments](#)

ULT

⁶ But I show [covenant faithfulness](#) to thousands, [to lovers of me](#) and to keepers of [my commandments](#).

UST

⁶ [However, I will faithfully love](#) thousands of generations [of those who love me](#) and obey [my commandments](#).

Exodus 20:7

You shall...lift up...lifts up (ULT)

Do...use...use (UST)

To **lift up**, take, or use the name of Yahweh (with emptiness, i.e. improperly) covers many sorts of speaking or invoking his name or making a claim to him or attempting to manipulate him or misrepresenting him. A broad word should be used in translation of this term.

You shall not lift up the name of Yahweh your God (ULT)

Do not use my name...I am Yahweh your God (UST)

Alternate translation: "You must not use the name of Yahweh your God"

with emptiness...with emptiness (ULT)

carelessly...for wrong purposes (UST)

Alternate translation: "carelessly" or "without proper respect"

will not leave unpunished (ULT)

will certainly punish (UST)

If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement. .

Alternate translation: "I will certainly consider guilty" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the name of](#)
- [my name](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [your God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [my name](#)
- [my name](#)
- [I am Yahweh](#)
- [I](#)
- [your God](#)

ULT

⁷ You shall not lift up [the name of Yahweh your God](#) with emptiness, for [Yahweh](#) will not leave unpunished anyone who lifts up [my name](#) with emptiness.

UST

⁷ Do not use [my name](#) carelessly, because [I am Yahweh your God](#), and I will certainly punish those who use [my name](#) for wrong purposes.

Exodus 20:8

to set it apart to me (ULT) belongs to me (UST)

Alternate translation: "to make it holy to me" or "to consecrate it to me"

Translation Words - ULT

- the Sabbath
- day
- to set it apart to me

Translation Words - UST

- the seventh...of every week
- day
- belongs to me

ULT

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day, to set it apart to me.

UST

⁸ Remember that the seventh day of every week belongs to me.

Exodus 20:9

your work (ULT)

your work (UST)

Alternate translation: "your occupation" or "your livelihood"

Translation Words - ULT

- days
- you may labor
- your work

Translation Words - UST

- days each week
- for you to do
- your work

ULT

⁹ Six days you may labor and do all your work,

UST

⁹ There are six days each week for you to do all your work.

Exodus 20:10

within your gates (ULT) are living in your country (UST)

Cities often had walls around them to keep out enemies, and gates for people to go in and out. Anyone who was inside the gates was part of the community. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “within your community” or “inside your city” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- but...day
- within your gates
- is a Sabbath
- for Yahweh
- your God
- or your son
- your male servant
- or your female servant
- or your cattle
- or the foreigner

Translation Words - UST

- But...day...a day...On that day
- your livestock
- and not even foreigners
- are living in your country
- is a day of rest
- dedicated to me, Yahweh
- your God
- nor your sons
- your male
- or female slaves

ULT

¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath for Yahweh your God. You shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male servant or your female servant or your cattle or the foreigner who is within your gates.

UST

¹⁰ But the seventh day is a day of rest, a day dedicated to me, Yahweh your God. On that day you must not do any work. Neither you nor your sons, your daughters, your male or female slaves, your livestock, and not even foreigners who are living in your country may work.

Exodus 20:11

on the seventh day (ULT)

on the seventh day (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "on day seven" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- days
- on...day
- day
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- and set it apart
- the heavens
- earth
- and rested
- blessed
- the Sabbath

Translation Words - UST

- I, Yahweh
- I, Yahweh
- the sky
- and set it apart to be a sacred day
- the earth
- days
- on...day
- day
- Then I stopped my work of creating everything and rested
- have blessed
- the rest

ULT

¹¹ For in six days Yahweh made the heavens and earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore Yahweh blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart.

UST

¹¹ Do this because I, Yahweh, created the sky, the earth, the ocean, and everything that is in them in six days. Then I stopped my work of creating everything and rested on the seventh day. That is the reason that I, Yahweh, have blessed the rest day and set it apart to be a sacred day.

Exodus 20:12

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Honor
- your father
- your days
- the land
- Yahweh
- your God

Translation Words - UST

- Honor
- your father
- you may live a long time
- the land
- I, Yahweh
- your God

ULT

¹² Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long on the land that Yahweh your God is giving you.

UST

¹² Honor your father and your mother, in order that you may live a long time in the land that I, Yahweh your God, will give you.

Exodus 20:13

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- You shall...murder

Translation Words - UST

- Do...murder anyone

ULT

¹³ You shall not murder.

UST

¹³ Do not murder anyone.

Exodus 20:14

You shall not commit adultery (ULT)

Do not commit adultery with anyone (UST)

Alternate translation: "You must not have sex with anyone other than your spouse"

Translation Words - ULT

- You shall...commit adultery

Translation Words - UST

- Do...commit adultery with anyone

ULT

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

UST

¹⁴ Do not commit adultery with anyone.

Exodus 20:15

(There are no notes for this verse.)

ULT

15 You shall not steal.

UST

15 Do not steal anything.

Exodus 20:16

You shall not testify false testimony against your neighbor (ULT)

Do not falsely accuse anyone of committing a crime (UST)

Alternate translation: "You must not speak a false report against your neighbor"

Translation Words - ULT

- You shall...testify
- testimony
- false testimony
- against your neighbor

Translation Words - UST

- falsely...of committing a crime
- Do...accuse
- of committing a crime
- anyone

ULT

¹⁶ You shall not testify false testimony against your neighbor.

UST

¹⁶ Do not falsely accuse anyone of committing a crime.

Exodus 20:17**You shall not covet (ULT)****Do not covet (UST)**

Alternate translation: "You must not strongly want to have" or "You must not want to take"

Translation Words - ULT

- the house of
- or his male servant
- or his female servant
- or his ox
- or his donkey

Translation Words - UST

- house
- someone else's male
- or female slave
- someone else's livestock
- someone else's donkeys

ULT

¹⁷ You shall not covet the house of your neighbor; you shall not covet the wife of your neighbor or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

UST

¹⁷ Do not covet someone else's house, someone else's wife, someone else's male or female slave, someone else's livestock, someone else's donkeys, or anything else that another person owns."

Exodus 20:18

the mountain smoking (ULT)
the smoke on the mountain (UST)

Alternate translation: "the smoky mountain"

and they trembled (ULT)
were afraid and trembled (UST)

Alternate translation: "and they shook with fear"

and they stood from a distance (ULT)
They stood a safe distance away (UST)

Alternate translation: "and stood far away"

Translation Words - ULT

- the people
- the people
- the horn
- and they trembled

Translation Words - UST

- When the people
- they
- the horn
- were afraid and trembled

ULT

¹⁸ All the people were seeing the thundering and the lightning and the sound of the horn and the mountain smoking. And the people saw it, and they trembled, and they stood from a distance.

UST

¹⁸ When the people heard the thunder and saw the lightning, and when they heard the sound of the horn and saw the smoke on the mountain, they were afraid and trembled. They stood a safe distance away

Exodus 20:19

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- God
- we die

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- God
- we will die

ULT

¹⁹ They said to **Moses**, "You speak to us and let us listen! But do not let **God** speak to us, lest **we die**."

UST

¹⁹ and said to **Moses**, "You talk to us! We will listen! But do not let **God** speak to us anymore. We are afraid that if he speaks anymore to us, **we will die**."

Exodus 20:20

**so that the fear of him may be above your faces and so that you do not sin (ULT)
He wants you to honor him and to not sin (UST)**

Alternate translation: "so that you will honor him and not sin"

**the fear of him may be above your faces (ULT)
He wants you to honor him (UST)**

Here, **fear** is spoken of as something that could be **above their faces**. This means that they would be continually thinking about honoring God. It is similar to the image in [Exodus 13:16](#). If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "you will live always reverencing him" (See: [Metaphor](#))

ULT

²⁰ And [Moses](#) said to the [people](#), "Do not [be afraid](#), for [God](#) has come to [test](#) you so that [the fear of him](#) may be above [your faces](#) and so that [you do not sin](#)."

UST

²⁰ [Moses](#) replied to [the people](#), "Do not [be afraid](#)! [God](#) has come to [observe how](#) you [will behave](#). [He wants you to honor him](#) and to not [sin](#)."

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [people](#)
- [Do...be afraid](#)
- [the fear of him](#)
- [God](#)
- [test](#)
- [your faces](#)
- [you do...sin](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the people](#)
- [Do...be afraid](#)
- [He wants you to honor him](#)
- [God](#)
- [observe how...will behave](#)
- [He wants you to honor him](#)
- [sin](#)

Exodus 20:21

and Moses approached (ULT)

Moses went close (UST)

Alternate translation: "and Moses moved closer,"

Translation Words - ULT

- the people
- and Moses
- the thick darkness
- God

Translation Words - UST

- the people
- Moses
- the black cloud
- God

ULT

²¹ So the people stood far off, and Moses approached toward the thick darkness where God was.

UST

²¹ Then, as the people watched from a distance, Moses went close to the black cloud where God was.

Exodus 20:22

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- the sons of
- Israel
- heaven

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- the Israelite people
- the Israelite people
- heaven

ULT

²² And Yahweh said to Moses, "You shall speak thus to the sons of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen that I have talked with you from heaven.

UST

²² Yahweh said to Moses, "Say this to the Israelite people, 'You have heard how I, Yahweh, have spoken to you from heaven.

Exodus 20:23

gods of silver or gods of gold (ULT) any gods of silver or gold (UST)

Alternate translation: “gods made out of silver or gold” or “idols made out of silver or gold”

Translation Words - ULT

- gods of
- or gods of
- silver
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- any gods of silver or gold
- any gods of silver or gold
- any gods of silver or gold
- any gods of silver or gold

ULT

²³ You shall not make alongside me— you shall not make **gods of silver or gods of gold** for yourselves.

UST

²³ Therefore, do not make **any gods of silver or gold** that you will worship instead of me.

Exodus 20:24

an altar of earth (ULT) an altar out of earth (UST)

The phrase **an altar of earth** means an altar made of materials from the ground, such as stone, soil, or clay.

I cause my name to be remembered (ULT) I choose for you to honor me (UST)

Here, **name** is a metonym for God's being. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "I cause myself to be remembered" (See: [Metonymy](#))

I cause my name to be remembered (ULT) I choose for you to honor me (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "I choose for you to remember me" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- an altar of
- and you shall sacrifice
- your burnt offerings
- peace offerings
- sheep
- oxen
- my name
- and bless you

Translation Words - UST

- an altar
- Sacrifice
- your burnt offerings
- your offerings to promise friendship with me
- and also your sheep
- oxen
- me
- and bless you

ULT

²⁴ You shall make **an altar of earth** for me, **and you shall sacrifice** on it **your burnt offerings**, and **peace offerings**, **sheep**, and **oxen**. In every place where I cause **my name** to be remembered, I will come to you **and bless you**.

UST

²⁴ Make **an altar** out of earth for me. **Sacrifice your burnt offerings** on it, **your offerings to promise friendship with me**, and also **your sheep** and **oxen**. Worship me in any place that I choose for you to honor **me**; if you do that, I will come to you **and bless you**.

Exodus 20:25

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- an altar of
- will defile it

Translation Words - UST

- an altar
- will profane

ULT

²⁵ And if you make me an altar of stones, you shall not build them of cut stones, for causing your tool to move over it will defile it.

UST

²⁵ If you build an altar for me out of stone, do not cut the stones because the cutting tool will profane the altar.

Exodus 20:26

And you shall not go up to my altar on steps (ULT)

Do not climb steps to my altar (UST)

If you need to connect this statement more explicitly to the previous statements regarding building the altar, you could add a phrase about building steps. Alternate translation: "Do not build steps up to the altar and go up to it on those steps" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

so that your nakedness is not exposed over it (ULT)

so that no one may see your genitals (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "so that you do not expose your nakedness over it" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

your nakedness (ULT)

your genitals (UST)

Alternate translation: "your private parts"

Translation Words - ULT

- [my altar](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [my altar](#)

ULT

²⁶ And you shall not go up to [my altar](#) on steps, so that your nakedness is not exposed over it.'

UST

²⁶ Do not climb steps to [my altar](#) so that no one may see your genitals.'

Exodus 21

Exodus 21 General Notes

This chapter begins to give the Israelite civil case law, that is, the explanation of how to apply the principles condensed in the ten commandments.

Structure:

- 1: Introduction
- 2-6: Laws regarding male slaves
- 7-11: Laws regarding female slaves
- 12-17: Capital crimes
- 18-36: Liability laws
 - 18-27: Regarding human violence
 - 28-36: Regarding damage done by or to animals

Translation Issues in this Chapter

Hypothetical situations

Throughout the case law, a hypothetical situation is introduced with “when” or “if.” It is followed by a description of the situation; then there is the penalty or action to be taken in those situations. A hypothetical person may be introduced with “anyone” or “whoever.” Most verses for the next several chapters will have these hypothetical situations. See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#) Translators familiar with Hebrew may want to notice that, generally, major divisions are introduced by כִּי (ki) and minor divisions within a topic are introduced by וְ (im).

Passive construction

Many portions of these situations are written in the passive voice. Some languages may have to change all or some of these to active voice. See: [Active or Passive](#).

Daughters sold as servants

The section from [verses 7-11](#) may be somewhat confusing because a daughter that is sold as a servant is seamlessly connected to her becoming someone’s wife. It seems the two things could be closely related.

Ransom payment

In [verse 30](#) a man whose bull killed someone may evade the death penalty by paying a ransom price, but the conditions for that happening are not clear.

Exodus 21:1

you must set before them

Yahweh continues speaking to Moses. There is no quote break between chapters.

you shall set (ULT)

you must establish (UST)

Alternate translation: "you must give" or "you must tell"

before their faces (ULT)

for the Israelite nation (UST)

Here, **faces** figuratively represents the presence of the nation. Alternate translation: "before them" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [are the ordinances](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [are the laws](#)

ULT

¹ And these [are the ordinances](#) that you shall set before their faces:

UST

¹ These [are the laws](#) that you must establish for the Israelite nation:

Exodus 21:2

General Information:

Here Yahweh begins telling Moses his laws for the people of Israel.

If you buy a Hebrew servant (ULT)

When you buy a Hebrew slave (UST)

This is the first of many hypothetical situations, introduced by “when” or **if**, which you will encounter over the next several chapters. See the introduction to chapter 21. You will need to translate these consistently in a manner that expresses that these situations have not happened. (See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a Hebrew
- servant
- he shall serve
- free

Translation Words - UST

- a Hebrew
- slave
- he is to serve you
- you must free him from being your slave

ULT

² If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve for six years, and in the seventh year he shall go free without paying anything.

UST

² When you buy a Hebrew slave, he is to serve you for only six years. In the seventh year you must free him from being your slave, and he does not have to pay you anything for setting him free.

Exodus 21:3

If he came by himself, he shall go free by himself (ULT)

If he became your slave alone, you will free him alone (UST)

What **by himself** means can be stated clearly. Some languages require that the additional condition, that he marries while a slave, be stated clearly. Alternate translation: "If he became a slave while he had no wife, and if he marries while he is a slave, the master need only free the man" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

by himself...by himself (ULT)
alone...alone (UST)

Alternate translation: "alone" or "without a wife"

If...he is the husband of a wife (ULT)

If...he had a wife (UST)

Alternate translation: "if he was married when he became a slave" or "if he came as a married man"

ULT

³ If he came by himself, he shall go free by himself; if he is the husband of a wife, then his wife shall go free with him.

UST

³ If he became your slave alone, you will free him alone. But if he had a wife, you must free both him and his wife.

Exodus 21:4

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- his master
- her master's
- sons
- and her children

Translation Words - UST

- the master of a slave
- will continue to be slaves of their master
- to sons
- and children

ULT

⁴ If his master gave him a wife and she bore him sons or daughters, the wife and her children are her master's, and he must go out by himself.

UST

⁴ If the master of a slave gives him a wife, and she gives birth to sons or daughters while her husband is a slave, you only have to free the man. His wife and children will continue to be slaves of their master.

Exodus 21:5

plainly says (ULT) clearly states (UST)

Alternate translation: "makes a statement, saying"

I shall not go out free (ULT) and I do not want to go free (UST)

Alternate translation: "I do not want my master to set me free"

Translation Words - ULT

- the servant
- I love
- my master
- my children
- free

Translation Words - UST

- he
- I love
- my master
- my children
- free

ULT

⁵ But if the servant plainly says, "I love my master, my wife, and my children; I shall not go out free,"

UST

⁵ But when it is time for you to free the slave if he clearly states: 'I love my master and my wife and my children, and I do not want to go free,'

Exodus 21:6

God (ULT)

the place where they worship God (UST)

The word for **God** at its most literal means “great ones.” Here it may have this basic meaning and refer to human judges or other leaders in Israel. It may also be a metonym and refer to the judges because they represent God to the people and have his authority. Texts other than the standard Hebrew text support this reading. See [Exodus 22:8-9](#) for another example of this. Alternate translation: “the judges” (See: [Metonymy](#))

and...shall bore...through...his ear (ULT)

Then...will use...to make a hole...in the slave’s ear (UST)

Alternate translation: “and ... will put a hole in his ear”

with an awl (ULT)

an awl (UST)

An **awl** is a pointed tool used to make a hole

forever (ULT)

for the rest of his life (UST)

Alternate translation: “until the end of his life” or “until he dies”

Translation Words - ULT

- [his master](#)
- [his master](#)
- [God](#)
- [forever](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [his master](#)
- [the master](#)
- [the place where they worship God](#)
- [for the rest of his life](#)

ULT

⁶ then [his master](#) shall bring him to [God](#). He shall bring him to a door or to a doorpost, and [his master](#) shall bore his ear through with an awl. Then he shall serve him [forever](#).

UST

⁶ then [his master](#) must take him to [the place where they worship God](#). There he must make the slave stand against the door or the doorpost. Then [the master](#) will use an awl to make a hole in the slave’s ear and he will own that slave [for the rest of his life](#).

Exodus 21:7

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- as a female servant
- the male servants

Translation Words - UST

- to become a slave
- the male slaves

ULT

⁷ And if a man sells his daughter **as a female servant**, she shall not go out as **the male servants** go out.

UST

⁷ If a man sells his daughter **to become a slave**, she should not go free like **the male slaves**.

Exodus 21:8

has designated

This verse is the first of three possible situations between a master and his female slave.

has appointed her (ULT) wanted her to be his concubine (UST)

Alternate translation: "has chosen her"

then he shall cause her to be ransomed (ULT) he must sell her back to her father (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "then he must allow her father to buy her back" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

since he has acted treacherously with her (ULT) because that was not what he and the girl's father agreed to (UST)

Alternate translation: "since he has deceived her"

Translation Words - ULT

- her master
- has appointed her
- He has...authority
- to a...people
- foreign

Translation Words - UST

- the man who bought her
- wanted her to be his concubine
- He must...sell her
- to a foreigner
- to a foreigner

ULT

⁸ If she is bad in the eyes of her master, who has appointed her for himself, then he shall cause her to be ransomed. He has no authority to sell her to a foreign people, since he has acted treacherously with her.

UST

⁸ If the man who bought her wanted her to be his concubine, but later he is not pleased with her, he must sell her back to her father. He must not sell her to a foreigner, because that was not what he and the girl's father agreed to.

Exodus 21:9**he has treated her deceitfully**

This verse is the second of three possible situations between a master and his female slave.

he appoints her for his son (ULT)
the man who buys her wants her to be a wife for his son (UST)

Alternate translation: "he decides that she is the one who will be his son's wife"

ULT

⁹ And if he appoints her **for his son**, he shall act toward her **according to the custom of** daughters.

UST

⁹ If the man who buys her wants her **to be a wife for his son**, he must then treat her **as though she were his own daughter**.

he shall act toward her according to the custom of daughters (ULT)
he must then treat her as though she were his own daughter (UST)

Alternate translation: "he must do to her according to the manner in which daughters are customarily treated"

Translation Words - ULT

- **for his son**
- **according to the custom of**

Translation Words - UST

- **to be a wife for his son**
- **as though she were his own daughter**

Exodus 21:10**designates her as a wife for his son**

This verse and the next are the third of three possible situations between a master and his female slave.

he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, or her marital rights (ULT)**he must continue to give the first woman the same amount of food, clothing, and sexual attention that he gave to her before (UST)**

If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement. Alternate translation: “he must give the first wife the same food, clothing, and marital rights she had before” (See: [Double Negatives](#))

**or her marital rights (ULT)
and sexual attention (UST)**

This term only occurs here in the Bible. It probably means things that a husband must do for his wife. Most commentators believe it specifically means having sexual relations with her, possibly so that she can bear children. Alternate translation: “or her right to intimacy” or “or her childbearing rights” (See: [Euphemism](#))

ULT

10 If he takes another to himself, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing, or her marital rights.

UST

10 If the master marries another woman, he must continue to give the first woman the same amount of food, clothing, and sexual attention that he gave to her before.

Exodus 21:11

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- free
- silver

Translation Words - UST

- he must free her from being a slave
- and she is not required to pay anything to go free

ULT

¹¹ But if he does not provide these three things to her, then she can go free without silver.

UST

¹¹ If he does not do these three things for her, he must free her from being a slave, and she is not required to pay anything to go free.

Exodus 21:12

Whoever strikes a man (ULT)

If someone hits a man (UST)

Alternate translation: "Whoever attacks a man"

he shall surely be put to death (ULT)
then you absolutely must execute the murderer (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "you must certainly execute that person" or "you must certainly kill that person" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- and he dies
- surely
- he shall...be put to death

Translation Words - UST

- in order to kill him and the man dies
- then you absolutely must execute the murderer
- then you absolutely must execute the murderer

ULT

¹² Whoever strikes a man and he dies, he shall surely be put to death.

UST

¹² If someone hits a man in order to kill him and the man dies, then you absolutely must execute the murderer;

Exodus 21:13

**But if he did not lie in wait (ULT)
but if he did not plan the murder (UST)**

Alternate translation: “But if he did not plan to do it” or “But if he did not do it on purpose”

**then I will appoint a place for you where he
can flee (ULT)
the one who hit him can escape to a place
that I will choose for you, and he will be safe
there (UST)**

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express the purpose for choosing a place explicitly. Alternate translation: “I will choose a place to which he can run away to be safe” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [but God](#)
- [then I will appoint](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [if God](#)
- [I will choose](#)

ULT

¹³ But if he did not lie in wait, [but God](#) let it happen by his hand, [then I will appoint](#) a place for you where he can flee.

UST

¹³ but if he did not plan the murder—if [God](#) allowed the accident—the one who hit him can escape to a place that [I will choose](#) for you, and he will be safe there.

Exodus 21:14

with cunning (ULT)
on purpose (UST)

Alternate translation: "after thinking carefully about it"

then you shall take him (ULT)
you must kill the murderer (UST)

The word "him" refers to the one who killed his neighbor.

for execution (ULT)
you must kill the murderer (UST)

Alternate translation: "to execute him"

Translation Words - ULT

- to kill him
- for execution
- with cunning
- my altar

Translation Words - UST

- and kills him
- you must kill the murderer
- on purpose
- even if he runs to God's altar

ULT

¹⁴ If a man willfully acts against his neighbor **to kill him with cunning**, then you shall take him from **my altar for execution**.

UST

¹⁴ But if someone gets angry with another person **and kills him on purpose**, **you must kill the murderer even if he runs to God's altar**.

Exodus 21:15

Whoever hits his father or his mother shall surely be put to death (ULT)

You must kill anyone who strikes his father or mother (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "If anyone hits his father or mother, you must surely put him to death" or "You must surely kill anyone who hits his father or mother" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

surely (ULT)

You must kill (UST)

Alternate translation: "certainly"

Translation Words - ULT

- [his father](#)
- [surely](#)
- [shall...be put to death](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You must kill](#)
- [You must kill](#)
- [his father](#)

ULT

¹⁵ Whoever hits [his father](#) or his mother shall [surely be put to death](#).

UST

¹⁵ [You must kill](#) anyone who strikes [his father](#) or mother.

Exodus 21:16**he shall surely be put to death (ULT)****You must kill (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “you must kill that kidnapper” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Whoever steals](#)
- [he shall...be put to death](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You must kill](#)
- [anyone who kidnaps](#)

ULT

¹⁶ [Whoever steals](#) a man—whether he sells him, or he is found in his hand—he [shall surely be put to death](#).

UST

¹⁶ [You must kill anyone who kidnaps](#) another person, whether he sold the person or you found him still with the kidnapper.

Exodus 21:17

Whoever acts contemptuously toward his father or his mother shall surely be put to death (ULT)

You must kill anyone who curses or insults his father or his mother (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "You must surely kill anyone who curses his father or his mother" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**Whoever acts contemptuously toward (ULT)
anyone who curses or insults (UST)**

The word translated **acts contemptuously** means the opposite of "honor" (as in the commandment to honor one's parents). Alternate translation: "Whoever acts dishonorably toward"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Whoever acts contemptuously toward](#)
- [his father](#)
- [shall...be put to death](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You must kill](#)
- [anyone who curses or insults](#)
- [his father](#)

ULT

¹⁷ [Whoever acts contemptuously toward his father](#) or his mother shall surely [be put to death](#).

UST

¹⁷ [You must kill anyone who curses or insults his father](#) or his mother.

Exodus 21:18

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- [he does...die](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the person he strikes does...die](#)

ULT

¹⁸ If men fight and a man hits his neighbor with a stone or with his fist, and [he does](#) not [die](#) but falls to bed,

UST

¹⁸ Suppose two people fight, and one hits the other with a stone or his fist. Suppose [the person he strikes does](#) not [die](#) but is injured and has to stay in bed for a while,

Exodus 21:19**he rises (ULT)****he is able to walk (UST)**

Alternate translation: "he gets better"

then...is free (ULT)**Then they must not punish (UST)**

Alternate translation: "then ... is innocent"

for his sitting (ULT)**the money he could not earn while he was recovering (UST)**

This refers to a situation when someone cannot work to earn money.

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "for the time he could not work" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))**and for his complete healing (ULT)****as well as the costs for healing (UST)**

Alternate translation: "and for his medical costs" or "and for his costs for healing"

Translation Words - ULT

- [he rises](#)
- [his staff](#)
- [and for his complete healing](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [he is able to walk](#)
- [using a cane](#)
- [as well as the costs for healing](#)

ULT

¹⁹ if [he rises](#) and walks about in the outdoors on [his staff](#), then the striker is free. He only shall pay for his sitting [and for his complete healing](#).

UST

¹⁹ but later [he is able to walk](#) outside [using a cane](#). Then they must not punish the person who hit him, except that they must make him pay the injured person the money he could not earn while he was recovering [as well as the costs for healing](#).

Exodus 21:20

under his hand (ULT) from the blow (UST)

Alternate translation: “because of the injury” or “because the master hit him”

he shall certainly be avenged (ULT) then you must avenge the slave’s death (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “you must certainly punish that man” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [his male servant](#)
- [his female servant](#)
- [and he dies](#)
- [he shall...be avenged](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [his male](#)
- [female slave](#)
- [and if the slave dies](#)
- [then you must avenge the slave’s death](#)

ULT

²⁰ And if a man hits [his male servant](#) or [his female servant](#) with a staff [and he dies](#) under his hand, [he shall](#) certainly be avenged.

UST

²⁰ If someone hits [his male](#) or [female slave](#) with a stick, [and if the slave dies](#) from the blow, [then you must avenge the slave’s death](#).

Exodus 21:21

for he is his silver (ULT) because the slave was his property (UST)

A common view is that the loss of the valuable property, the slave, is itself a punishment. It may be that the master loses the slave for a time and also has to pay for his healing, or it may be that the slave dies after a few days. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that the servant was valuable to his master explicitly.

Alternate translation: “because he has already lost his servant who was valuable to him” or “because he has already lost his servant’s work for a time and had to pay for his healing” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a day
- two
- he shall...be avenged
- is his silver

Translation Words - UST

- after a few days
- after a few days
- you must...punish the one who hit him
- was his property

ULT

²¹ However, if he stands a day or two, he shall not be avenged, for he is his silver.

UST

²¹ But if the slave recovers after a few days, you must not punish the one who hit him, because the slave was his property.

Exodus 21:22

**and her children come out, but there is no serious injury (ULT)
so that she gives birth, but she and the baby are unharmed (UST)**

It is not clear in the passage what happens to the child. The text is simply as in the ULT. Some have taken it to mean that the child dies because of premature birth, and the **serious injury** only relates to the woman. In this case, a fine is imposed for the loss of the child. However, the text could also mean that the child is born safely. A fine is still imposed because of the great danger to the two lives. Then the next few verses give consequences for any injury either to mother or child.

**serious injury (ULT)
but she and the baby are unharmed (UST)**

Alternate translation: "hurt"

**then he shall surely be fined (ULT)
whoever hit her must pay a fine (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "you must certainly fine the guilty man" or "the guilty man must pay a fine" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**according to the judges (ULT)
after a judge approves of the fine (UST)**

Alternate translation: "what the judges decide"

Translation Words - ULT

- [her children](#)
- [according to the judges](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [so that she gives birth](#)
- [after a judge approves of the fine](#)

ULT

²² And if men fight together and strike a pregnant woman and [her children](#) come out, but there is no serious injury, then he shall surely be fined as the husband of the woman puts on him, and he shall give [according to the judges](#).

UST

²² If some men are fighting, and they hit a pregnant woman [so that she gives birth](#), but she and the baby are unharmed, whoever hit her must pay a fine. He must pay whatever the woman's husband asks [after a judge approves of the fine](#).

Exodus 21:23

**then you shall give a life for a life (ULT)
you must punish him by causing the same
harm to him}. If he killed someone, you must
kill him (UST)**

This means that if someone is hurt, the person who caused the hurt must be hurt in the same way. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: “you must take the killer’s life for the murdered person’s life” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a life
- a life

Translation Words - UST

- you must punish him by causing the same harm to him...If he killed someone, you must kill him
- you must punish him by causing the same harm to him...If he killed someone, you must kill him

ULT

²³ But if there is serious injury, then you shall give a life for a life,

UST

²³ But if he harmed anyone {you must punish him by causing the same harm to him}. If he killed someone, you must kill him.

Exodus 21:24

an eye for an eye (ULT)

In the same way, if he harmed} an eye (UST)

This means that if someone is hurt, the person who caused the hurt must be hurt in the same way. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: “the striker’s eye for the injured person’s eye” (and repeated in like manner for each example throughout this and the next verse) (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

ULT

²⁴ an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth,
a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot,

UST

²⁴ {In the same way, if he harmed} an
eye, a tooth, a hand, or a foot,

Exodus 21:25

(There are no notes for this verse.)

ULT

²⁵ a burn for a burn, a wound for a wound, or a bruise for a bruise.

UST

²⁵ or caused a burn, a wound, or a bruise—{you must cause the same harm to him}.

Exodus 21:26**a man (ULT)
the owner of (UST)**

Here, **man** refers to the owner of a slave.

**in compensation for (ULT)
because of what he did to the slave's eye (UST)**

Alternate translation: "as payment for"

Translation Words - ULT

- his male servant
- his female servant
- and destroys it
- free

Translation Words - UST

- his male
- female slave
- and that eye becomes blind
- then he must free that slave

ULT

²⁶ And if a man hits the eye of **his male servant** or the eye of **his female servant and destroys it**, he shall let him go **free** in compensation for his eye.

UST

²⁶ If the owner of a slave strikes the eye of **his male** or **female slave and that eye becomes blind**, **then he must free that slave** because of what he did to the slave's eye.

Exodus 21:27

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- his male servant
- his female servant
- free

Translation Words - UST

- one of his slave's teeth
- one of his slave's teeth
- he must free the slave

ULT

²⁷ And if he knocks out a tooth of his male servant or a tooth of his female servant, he shall let him go free as compensation for the tooth.

UST

²⁷ If someone knocks out one of his slave's teeth, he must free the slave because of what he did to the slave's tooth.

Exodus 21:28**an ox gores (ULT)
a bull gores (UST)**

Alternate translation: "an ox injures with its horns"

**the ox shall surely be stoned (ULT)
you must kill the bull by throwing stones at it (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "you must surely stone the ox to death" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**and its flesh shall not be eaten (ULT)
but do not eat it (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "and you must not eat its flesh" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- an ox
- the ox
- and he dies
- shall...be stoned
- its flesh
- is innocent

Translation Words - UST

- a bull
- the bull
- with the result that the person dies
- you must kill...by throwing stones at it
- it
- is not guilty

ULT

²⁸ And if **an ox** gores a man or a woman **and he dies**, the ox shall surely **be stoned**, and **its flesh** shall not be eaten, but the owner of **the ox is innocent**.

UST

²⁸ If **a bull** gores a man or woman **with the result that the person dies**, **you must kill** the bull **by throwing stones at it**, but do not eat **it**. The owner of **the bull is not guilty**.

Exodus 21:29

and its owner was warned but did not keep it in (ULT)

and if people had told its owner about that, but he did not keep the bull inside a fence (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state **its owner was warned** in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “and someone warned its owner but he did not keep it in” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

and its owner was warned but did not keep it in (ULT)

and if people had told its owner about that, but he did not keep the bull inside a fence (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express the content of the warning explicitly. Alternate translation: “and its owner was warned that it gores but he did not keep it in” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

and its owner also shall be put to death (ULT)
and you must also kill its owner (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “and you must also kill its owner” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the ox](#)
- [the ox](#)
- [and...was warned](#)
- [did...keep it in](#)
- [and it kills](#)
- [shall be put to death](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the bull](#)
- [the bull](#)
- [and if people had told...about that](#)
- [he did...keep the bull inside a fence](#)
- [and it kills...by goring](#)
- [you must...kill](#)

ULT

²⁹ But if [the ox](#) had a habit of goring in the past, and its owner [was warned](#) but did not [keep it in, and it kills](#) a man or a woman, [the ox](#) shall be stoned and its owner also [shall be put to death](#).

UST

²⁹ But if [the bull](#) had attacked people several times before [and if people had told](#) its owner [about that](#), but [he did not keep the bull inside a fence, and it kills](#) a man or woman [by goring](#), then you must kill [the bull](#) by throwing stones at it, and [you must](#) also [kill](#) its owner.

Exodus 21:30

If a ransom is imposed on him, he shall give the ransom of his life, according to all that is imposed on him (ULT)

However, if {the family of the dead} chooses to demand compensation instead, to save his life he must pay the full amount they demand (UST)

The text does not specify who will impose a ransom on the ox's owner. Since other texts indicate that justice is retributive and performed by the dead person's family, that is one option. Another option is that the judges will impose it. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express one of these explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

ULT

³⁰ If a ransom is imposed on him, he shall give the ransom of his life, according to all that is imposed on him.

UST

³⁰ However, if {the family of the dead} chooses to demand compensation instead, to save his life he must pay the full amount they demand.

If a ransom is imposed on him...is imposed on him (ULT)

However, if {the family of the dead} chooses to demand compensation instead...the full amount (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. However, you must make a decision regarding who is imposing the ransom or use an unspecified pronoun, if that is possible in your language (this second option would not make sense in English). Alternate translation: "If the judges impose a ransom on him ... they impose on him" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a ransom
- the ransom of
- his life

Translation Words - UST

- compensation
- they demand
- to save his life

Exodus 21:31**it gores...it gores (ULT)
attacks and gores...attacks and gores (UST)**

Alternate translation: "it injures with its horns ... it injures with its horns"

**to him (ULT)
the bull's owner (UST)**

Here, **him** probably refers to the ox's owner. Alternate translation: "to the owner" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [a son](#)
- [according to...ordinance](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [someone's son](#)
- [according to...same rule](#)

ULT

³¹ If it gores [a son](#) or it gores a daughter, it shall be done to him [according to this ordinance](#).

UST

³¹ If someone's bull attacks and gores [someone's son](#) or daughter, you must treat the bull's owner [according to that same rule](#).

Exodus 21:32

thirty silver shekels (ULT) thirty pieces of silver (UST)

In ancient times, a silver shekel weighed about 11 grams or about a third of an ounce. You could try to express the equivalent in terms of modern money values, but if you did, that could cause your Bible translation to become outdated and inaccurate, since those values can change over time. Instead, you could say something general like “30 silver coins” or give the equivalent weight or use the biblical term in the text and explain the weight in a footnote. Alternate translation: “330 grams of silver” (See: [Biblical Money](#))

If the ox gores a male servant (ULT) If a bull attacks and gores a male (UST)

Because they are to kill the ox, the slave must have died. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: “If an ox kills a male servant” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

and the ox shall be stoned (ULT) and you must kill the bull by throwing stones at it (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “you must kill the ox by stoning it” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the ox](#)
- [and the ox](#)
- [gores](#)
- [a female servant](#)
- [silver](#)
- [to the master](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a bull](#)
- [and...the bull](#)
- [a male](#)
- [female slave](#)
- [to the slave's owner](#)
- [silver](#)

ULT

³² If [the ox gores](#) a male servant or a [female servant](#), he shall give thirty [silver shekels](#) [to the master](#), and [the ox](#) shall be stoned.

UST

³² If [a bull](#) attacks and gores [a male](#) or [female slave](#), its owner must pay [to the slave's owner](#) thirty pieces of [silver](#), and you must kill [the bull](#) by throwing stones at it.

Exodus 21:33**opens...a cistern (ULT)
uncovers...a hole for storing water (UST)**

Alternate translation: "uncovers a hole in the ground" or "takes a cover off a hole in the ground"

Translation Words - ULT

- a cistern
- a cistern
- an ox
- a donkey

Translation Words - UST

- a hole for storing water
- one...it
- someone's bull
- donkey

ULT

³³ And if a man opens a cistern or if a man digs a cistern and does not cover it and an ox or a donkey falls there,

UST

³³ Suppose someone uncovers a hole for storing water or digs one and does not cover it. If someone's bull or donkey falls into it {and dies},

Exodus 21:34

He shall cause silver to return to its owner (ULT)

must give the...animal's owner...as much money as the animal was worth (UST)

The owner must be paid for the loss of his animal. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "he must pay the owner for the dead animal" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

shall compensate (ULT)
must give the...as much money as the animal was worth (UST)

Alternate translation: "must make restitution"

and the dead animal shall become his (ULT)
but then he will own the dead animal (UST)

The one who paid for the loss of the animal will become the owner of the dead animal and can do what he wants with it. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "and the dead animal will belong to the owner of the pit" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- silver
- and the dead animal

Translation Words - UST

- must give the...as much money as the animal was worth
- but then...the dead animal

ULT

³⁴ the owner of the pit shall compensate. He shall cause silver to return to its owner, and the dead animal shall become his.

UST

³⁴ the owner of the pit must give the animal's owner as much money as the animal was worth, but then he will own the dead animal.

Exodus 21:35

**the ox of...and divide...its silver (ULT)
bull...and they must divide between them...
the money that they get for it (UST)**

Alternate translation: "and divide the money" or "and divide the money they receive"

Translation Words - ULT

- the ox of
- the ox of
- the...ox
- and it dies
- the dead...ox
- live
- its silver

Translation Words - UST

- bull
- bull
- the bull
- so that it dies
- the meat of the animal that died
- that is living
- the money that they get for it

ULT

³⁵ And if **the ox of** a man strikes **the ox of** another **and it dies**, then they shall sell the **live ox** and divide **its silver**, and they shall also divide **the dead {ox}**.

UST

³⁵ If someone's **bull** hurts another person's **bull**, **so that it dies**, the owners of both bulls must sell **the bull that is living**, and they must divide between them **the money that they get for it**. They must also divide between them **the meat of the animal that died**.

Exodus 21:36

If it was known (ULT)

However, if the owner knew (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. (See: [Active or Passive](#))

the ox...had a habit of goring in the past (ULT) the bull...often attacked other animals before (UST)

Alternate translation: "the ox had gored other animals before"

and its owner has not kept it in (ULT) and he did not secure it, then the owner of that bull (UST)

This means that the owner did not keep his ox safely where it could not wander to hurt other animals. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "and its owner did not keep it inside a fence" or "and its owner did not tie it securely" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

he shall surely compensate ox for ox (ULT) must give the owner of the bull that died a living bull (UST)

The owner of the ox that killed must give an ox to the man who lost his ox. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "the owner of the ox that killed must surely give a living ox to the owner of the ox that died" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [it was known](#)
- [the ox](#)
- [ox](#)
- [ox](#)
- [has...kept it in](#)
- [and the dead animal](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the owner knew](#)
- [the bull](#)
- [of the bull that died](#)
- [a living bull](#)
- [he did...secure it](#)
- [but then...the dead animal](#)

ULT

³⁶ If [it was known](#) that [the ox](#) had a habit of goring in the past, and its owner has not [kept it in](#), he shall surely compensate [ox for ox](#), and the [dead animal](#) shall become his own.

UST

³⁶ However, if [the owner knew](#) that [the bull](#) often attacked other animals before, and [he did not secure it](#), then the owner of that bull must give the owner [of the bull that died a living bull](#), [but then](#) he will own [the dead animal](#).

Exodus 22

Exodus 22 General Notes

Structure

This chapter continues the list of case laws for Israel. We will not attempt to provide an outline since almost every verse is about a different case.

Translation Issues in this Chapter

Hypothetical situations

Throughout the case law a hypothetical situation is introduced with “when” or “if.” Then there is a description of the situation, and then there is the penalty or action to be taken in those situations. A hypothetical person may be introduced with “anyone” or “whoever.” Most verses for the next several chapters will contain these hypothetical situations. See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#) Translators familiar with Hebrew may want to notice that, generally, major divisions are introduced by כִּי (ki) and minor divisions within a topic are introduced by וְ (‘im).

Passive construction

Many portions of these situations are written in the passive voice. Some languages may have to change all or some of these to active voice. See: [Active or Passive](#).

Exodus 22:1

General Information:

Yahweh continues telling Moses his laws for the people of Israel.

If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it (ULT)

If someone steals a bull or a sheep and then kills it or sells it (UST)

This is the first of many hypothetical situations in this chapter, introduced by “when” or **if**, which you will encounter over the next several chapters. See the introduction. You will need to translate these consistently in a manner that expresses that these situations have not actually happened. (See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#))

five...and four (ULT)

five...and...four (UST)

Alternate translation: “5 ... and 4” (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- an ox
- cattle
- a sheep
- sheep
- and slaughters it

Translation Words - UST

- a bull
- bulls or cows
- a sheep
- sheep or goats
- and then kills it

ULT

¹ If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he shall compensate five cattle for the ox, and four sheep for the sheep.

UST

¹ If someone steals a bull or a sheep and then kills it or sells it, he must give the owner five bulls or cows for the bull that he stole, and he must give the owner four sheep or goats for the sheep that he stole.

Exodus 22:2

If a thief is found while breaking in (ULT) If someone finds a thief breaking into his house {at night (UST)}

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "If anyone finds a thief while he is breaking in" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

while breaking in (ULT) breaking into his house {at night (UST)}

Alternate translation: "while using force to enter a house"

and he is struck and he dies (ULT) and hits him and the thief dies (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "if anyone strikes the thief so that he dies" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

there is no bloodguilt for him (ULT) he is not guilty of murder (UST)

Alternate translation: "no one will be guilty of murdering him"

Translation Words - ULT

- [and he dies](#)
- [bloodguilt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [and the thief dies](#)
- [guilty of murder](#)

ULT

² If a thief is found while breaking in, and he is struck [and he dies](#), there is no [bloodguilt](#) for him.

UST

² If someone finds a thief breaking into his house {at night} and hits him [and the thief dies](#), he is not [guilty of murder](#).

Exodus 22:3

But if the sun has risen on him (ULT)

But if that happens during the daytime (UST)

Alternate translation: "But if it is light before he breaks in" or "But if he breaks in and it is after sunrise"

then he shall be sold for his theft (ULT)
the judges must sell him to become a slave,
and the money from his sale will pay for what
he stole (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "you must sell him as a slave in order to pay for what he stole" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [there is bloodguilt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the one who killed the thief is guilty of murdering him](#)

ULT

³ But if the sun has risen on him, [there is bloodguilt](#) for him. He shall surely make restitution. If he has nothing, then he shall be sold for his theft.

UST

³ But if that happens during the daytime, [the one who killed the thief is guilty of murdering him](#). A thief must pay for what he stole. If he has nothing with which to pay for what he stole, the judges must sell him to become a slave, and the money from his sale will pay for what he stole.

Exodus 22:4

If the stolen thing is actually found...in his hand...alive (ULT)

In a case where you catch a thief and he still has the stolen goods...and it is still alive (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "If they find that he still has the live animal that he stole" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

he shall compensate double (ULT)
the thief must pay back the stolen animal as well as another one of the same kind (UST)

The meaning of **compensate double** is not entirely clear. Most interpretations follow the UST, that is, two animals total must be given, the stolen one and one more. Some interpret double to mean the thief must pay two animals for every animal that he took, so three total. It would be best to leave double as ambiguous as possible. Alternate translation: "he must compensate twice what he stole"

Translation Words - ULT

- [alive](#)
- [from an ox](#)
- [a donkey](#)
- [a sheep](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [if it is a bull](#)
- [a donkey](#)
- [a sheep](#)
- [and it is still alive](#)

ULT

⁴ If the stolen thing is actually found [alive](#) in his hand, [from an ox](#) to [a donkey](#) to [a sheep](#), he shall compensate double.

UST

⁴ In a case where you catch a thief and he still has the stolen goods, [if it is a bull](#) or [a donkey](#) or [a sheep](#), [and it is still alive](#), the thief must pay back the stolen animal as well as another one of the same kind.

Exodus 22:5

causes...to graze...and it grazes (ULT)
puts his animals...to eat...and eat the plants (UST)

Alternate translation: "causes to eat plants ... and it eats plants"

his livestock...it (ULT)
the...animals (UST)

Livestock is a collective singular noun that could refer to cows, goats, sheep, or basically any domesticated animals. In some languages you will need to translate it as a plural. (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

he shall compensate (ULT)
the owner of the animals must pay the owner of that field by giving him (UST)

Alternate translation: "he must pay back the owner of that field"

Translation Words - ULT

- [his livestock...it](#)
- [vineyard](#)
- [his vineyard](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [in his vineyard](#)
- [or vineyard](#)
- [the...animals](#)

ULT

⁵ If a man causes [his livestock](#) to graze a field or [vineyard](#) and lets [it](#) go, and it grazes in the field of another, he shall compensate from the best of his field and from the best of [his vineyard](#).

UST

⁵ If someone puts his animals in his field or [in his vineyard](#) to eat, and he allows the to [animals](#) stray away and eat the plants in another person's field, the owner of the animals must pay the owner of that field by giving him the best from his own field [or vineyard](#).

Exodus 22:6

If a fire breaks out and spreads in thorns and...is consumed (ULT)

If someone starts a fire, and it spreads through the grass and starts burning...and the fire burns (UST)

Here, **breaks out** and **consumes** can be stated in active form or in another way that is natural in your language if your language does not use the passive form in this way. Alternate translation: "If someone starts a fire, and it spreads in thorns, and it consumes" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

and spreads in thorns (ULT)
and it spreads through the grass (UST)

Alternate translation: "and moves along the ground through dry plants"

stacked grain (ULT)
grain that is already cut and stacked (UST)

This is grain that has been cut and tied in bundles. Alternate translation: "bundled grain" or "harvested grain" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

the standing grain (ULT)
grain that is growing (UST)

This is grain that has not been cut, but it is ready to be harvested. Alternate translation: "the grain still growing in the field" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a fire
- fire
- and...is consumed

Translation Words - UST

- a fire
- the fire
- and starts burning...and the fire burns

ULT

⁶ If a fire breaks out and spreads in thorns and stacked grain or the standing grain or a field is consumed, the fire starter shall surely compensate.

UST

⁶ If someone starts a fire, and it spreads through the grass and starts burning in someone else's field, and the fire burns grain that is growing or grain that is already cut and stacked, then the person who started the fire must pay for the grain that the fire destroyed.

Exodus 22:7

for safekeeping (ULT)
and asks him...keep it in his house for a while (UST)

Alternate translation: "to watch over it" or "to keep it safe"

and if it is stolen (ULT)
And suppose that a thief steals it (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "if someone steals it" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

if the thief is found (ULT)
If you catch the thief (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "if you find the thief" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- silver
- from the house of

Translation Words - UST

- some money
- from that person's house

ULT

⁷ If a man gives silver or goods to his neighbor for safekeeping, and if it is stolen from the house of the man, if the thief is found, he shall compensate double.

UST

⁷ Suppose that someone gives another person some money or other items and asks him to keep it in his house for a while. And suppose that a thief steals it from that person's house. If you catch the thief, the thief must pay back twice as much as he stole.

Exodus 22:8

If the thief is not found, then the owner of the house shall be brought to God (ULT)
But if no one catches the thief, you must bring the owner of the house to God (UST)

You may need to translate these in an active voice if your language does not use passive in this way. Alternate translation: "If no one finds the thief, bring the owner of the house to God" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

God (ULT)

God (UST)

The word for **God** at its most literal means "great ones." Here and in the [next verse](#) it may have this basic meaning and refer to human judges or other leaders in Israel. It may also be a metonym and refer to the judges because they represent God to the people and have his authority. See [Exodus 21:6](#) for another example of this. Alternate translation: "the judges" (See: [Metonymy](#))

he has stretched out his hand against the property of his neighbor (ULT)
he did...take his neighbor's property (UST)

This is an idiom for stealing. If you have a way of saying this in your language, you can use it here. Alternate translation: "he has stolen his neighbor's property" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the house](#)
- [God](#)
- [his hand](#)
- [his neighbor](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the house](#)
- [God](#)
- [he did...take](#)
- [his neighbor's](#)

ULT

⁸ If the thief is not found, then the owner of [the house](#) shall be brought to [God](#), whether or not he has stretched out [his hand](#) against the property of [his neighbor](#).

UST

⁸ But if no one catches the thief, you must bring the owner of [the house](#) to [God](#) so he {can swear} that [he did](#) not [take his neighbor's](#) property.

Exodus 22:9

matter of...matter of (ULT)

Whenever someone claims his neighbor wronged him...Whenever someone claims his neighbor wronged him (UST)

Alternate translation: "dispute of ... the dispute of"

Surely this is it (ULT)

This...is actually mine (UST)

Alternate translation: "This is mine" or "This is my missing property"

God...God (ULT)

God...God (UST)

The word used here for **God**, at its most literal, means "great ones." Here and in the [previous verse](#) it may have this basic meaning and refer to human judges or other leaders in Israel. It may also be a metonym and refer to the judges because they represent God to the people and have his authority. See [Exodus 21:6](#) for another example of this. Alternate translation: "the judges" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [an ox](#)
- [a donkey](#)
- [a sheep](#)
- [God](#)
- [God](#)
- [declares guilty](#)
- [his neighbor](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a bull](#)
- [a donkey](#)
- [a sheep](#)
- [God](#)
- [God](#)
- [says is wrong](#)
- [the owner](#)

ULT

⁹ Concerning every matter of transgression, concerning [an ox](#), concerning [a donkey](#), concerning [a sheep](#), concerning clothing, concerning every lost property about which someone says, "Surely this is it," the matter of both parties shall come to [God](#). Whomever [God declares guilty](#) shall compensate [his neighbor](#) double.

UST

⁹ Whenever someone claims his neighbor wronged him and says, 'This is actually mine,' about [a bull](#), [a donkey](#), [a sheep](#), clothing, or something else he lost, they must both come and stand before [God](#). The one whom [God says is wrong](#) must pay back [the owner](#) twice as much as he took.

Exodus 22:10

or is hurt...is carried away (ULT) something injures it or takes it away (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language, as modeled in the UST. (See: [Active or Passive](#))

is carried away (ULT) takes it away (UST)

Here, **carried away** means that it is not a thief but a wild animal that takes the ox or sheep away (to eat it). See [verse 12](#) for cases where the animal is stolen while in another's care.

Translation Words - ULT

- a donkey
- an ox
- a sheep
- any animal
- and it dies

Translation Words - UST

- his donkey
- bull
- sheep
- animal
- However, the animal dies

ULT

¹⁰ If a man gives to his neighbor a [donkey](#) or [an ox](#) or [a sheep](#) or [any animal](#) to keep, [and it dies](#) or is hurt or is carried away without a witness,

UST

¹⁰ Suppose someone gives [his donkey](#) or [bull](#) or [sheep](#) or some other [animal](#) to someone else and asks him to take care of it for a while. [However, the animal dies](#), or something injures it or takes it away while no one is watching.

Exodus 22:11

**there shall be an oath of Yahweh between both of them...Its owner must accept (ULT)
Then the person who was taking care of the animal must swear, knowing that Yahweh is listening...The owner of the animal must accept that the other person is telling the truth (UST)**

Only the man who is accused of stealing the animal must swear the oath. The owner of the lost animal must accept the oath that has been sworn. If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "the man who was caring for the animal must swear an oath before Yahweh ... and the owner must accept that oath" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [an oath of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [he stretched out](#)
- [his hand](#)
- [Its owner](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Then the person who was taking care of the animal must swear, knowing that Yahweh is listening](#)
- [Then the person who was taking care of the animal must swear, knowing that Yahweh is listening](#)
- [he did...steal](#)
- [he did...steal](#)
- [The owner of the animal](#)

ULT

¹¹ there shall be [an oath of Yahweh](#) between both of them, whether or not [he stretched out his hand](#) against the property of his neighbor. [Its owner](#) must accept, and he shall not compensate.

UST

¹¹ [Then the person who was taking care of the animal must swear, knowing that Yahweh is listening](#), that [he did not steal](#) the item. [The owner of the animal](#) must accept that the other person is telling the truth, and the other person will not have to pay anything back to the owner.

Exodus 22:12

**But if it was truly stolen from him (ULT)
But if someone stole the animal while he was
supposed to be taking care of it (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "But if someone stole the animal from him" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

ULT

¹² But if it was truly stolen from him, he shall compensate its owner.

UST

¹² But if someone stole the animal while he was supposed to be taking care of it, the man who promised to take care of it must pay back the owner for the animal.

Exodus 22:13

If it was truly torn (ULT)

If wild animals mauled the animal (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "But if a wild beast tore the animal in pieces" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [as evidence](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [to prove that what he says is true](#)

ULT

¹³ If it was truly torn, he shall bring it [as evidence](#). He shall not compensate for what was torn.

UST

¹³ If wild animals mauled the animal, he must bring back its remains [to prove that what he says is true](#). If he does that, he will not have to pay anything for the mauled animal.

Exodus 22:14

**he shall surely compensate (ULT)
the one who borrowed it must pay the owner
for the animal (UST)**

Alternate translation: "must certainly repay with another animal" or "must certainly pay the owner for the animal"

**and it is injured or dies (ULT)
and if something hurts or kills that animal
(UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language, as modeled in the UST.(See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [dies](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [kills](#)

ULT

¹⁴ If a man borrows from his neighbor and it is injured or [dies](#) without the owner with it, he shall surely compensate.

UST

¹⁴ If someone borrows an animal from his neighbor, and if something hurts or [kills](#) that animal when its owner is not there, the one who borrowed it must pay the owner for the animal.

Exodus 22:15**if...was for hire (ULT)
If someone rented (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "if someone rented the animal" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**it came for its hiring fee (ULT)
the money that he paid to rent it will be
enough to pay for the animal dying or for an
injury (UST)**

The one who borrowed the animal will not have to pay the owner anything more than the hiring or rental fee. This fee will pay for the loss of the animal. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "the money that someone paid to rent the animal will cover the loss of the animal" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

**for its hiring fee (ULT)
the money that he paid to rent it will be enough to pay for the animal dying
or for an injury (UST)**

Alternate translation: "for its rental fee" or "for the money paid to rent the animal"

ULT

¹⁵ If its owner was with it, he shall not compensate; if it was for hire, it came for its hiring fee.

UST

¹⁵ But if that happens when the owner of the animal is there, the one who borrowed it will not have to pay back anything. If someone rented it, the money that he paid to rent it will be enough to pay for the animal dying or for an injury.

Exodus 22:16

If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged (ULT)

If a man tricks a virgin girl whose {father} has not yet promised her to be anyone's bride (UST)

Alternate translation: "If a man persuades a virgin who is not engaged that she wants to lie with him"

not engaged (ULT)
has not yet promised her to be anyone's bride (UST)

Alternate translation: "not promised to be married"

and if he lies (ULT)
into having sexual intercourse (UST)

Lying with someone refers to having sex. This is a polite way of referring to something unpleasant. If this would be misunderstood in your language, use a different polite way of referring to this or you could state this plainly. Alternate translation: "if he has sex with her" (See: [Euphemism](#))

he shall surely pay her bride price (ULT)
he must pay the bride price (UST)

The **bride price** was money paid to the family to compensate for the loss of their daughter.

Translation Words - ULT

- a virgin
- and if he lies

Translation Words - UST

- a virgin girl
- into having sexual intercourse

ULT

¹⁶ If a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged, and if he lies with her, he shall surely pay her bride price to make her his wife.

UST

¹⁶ If a man tricks a virgin girl whose {father} has not yet promised her to be anyone's bride into having sexual intercourse with him, he must pay the bride price for her and marry her.

Exodus 22:17

to him...he shall weigh out (ULT)
him...he must still pay the girl's father (UST)

Here, **him** and **he** refer back to the man who seduced the virgin.
 (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [her father](#)
- [silver](#)
- [virgins](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [her father](#)
- [as much...as men pay to marry a virgin](#)
- [money](#)

ULT

¹⁷ If [her father](#) completely refuses to give her to him, he shall weigh out [silver](#) equal to the bride price of [virgins](#).

UST

¹⁷ But if [her father](#) does not allow her to marry him, he must still pay the girl's father [as much money as men pay to marry a virgin](#).

Exodus 22:18

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- You shall...allow...to live
- a sorceress

Translation Words - UST

- You must kill
- any woman who practices sorcery

ULT

¹⁸ You shall not allow a sorceress to live.

UST

¹⁸ You must kill any woman who practices sorcery.

Exodus 22:19

Any liar with an animal (ULT) any person who has sexual intercourse with an animal (UST)

This refers to sexual relations. This is a polite way of referring to something unpleasant. If this would be misunderstood in your language, use a different polite way of referring to this or you could state this plainly. Alternate translation: "Whoever has sexual relations with an animal" (See: [Euphemism](#))

ULT

¹⁹ Any [liar](#) with [an animal](#) shall surely [be put to death](#).

UST

¹⁹ [You must kill](#) any person who [has sexual intercourse](#) with [an animal](#).

Any liar with an animal shall surely be put to death (ULT) You must kill any person who has sexual intercourse with an animal (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state **be put to death** in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "You must surely execute whoever lies with an animal" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [liar](#)
- [an animal](#)
- [shall...be put to death](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You must kill](#)
- [has sexual intercourse](#)
- [an animal](#)

Exodus 22:20**shall be completely destroyed (ULT)****You must kill (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation (placed at the beginning of the sentence): "You must completely destroy" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [A sacrificer](#)
- [to the gods](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [shall be completely destroyed](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You must kill](#)
- [anyone who offers a sacrifice](#)
- [to any god](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

²⁰ [A sacrificer to the gods](#) except to [Yahweh](#) alone [shall be completely destroyed](#).

UST

²⁰ [You must kill anyone who offers a sacrifice to any god](#) other than [Yahweh](#).

Exodus 22:21**You shall not wrong (ULT)****You must not abuse (UST)**

Alternate translation: "You must not mistreat" or "You must not cheat"

for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt (ULT)**because you were foreigners in Egypt (UST)**

The Israelites are called to remember their previous condition, that they lived as foreign guests in Egypt. They came first to avoid the famine in Jacob and Joseph's time and were dependent on Egyptian hospitality. Later they were wronged and oppressed, and they are not to do that to those who sojourn with them. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "for you were wronged and oppressed as sojourners in the land of Egypt" or "for you also depended on hospitality while you lived as sojourners in Egypt" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

ULT

²¹ You shall not wrong a sojourner and you shall not oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

UST

²¹ You must not abuse or subjugate foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt.

Translation Words - ULT

- You shall...wrong
- a sojourner
- were sojourners
- and you shall...oppress him
- in the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- You must...abuse
- subjugate
- foreigners
- were foreigners
- in Egypt
- in Egypt

Exodus 22:22

You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child (ULT)

You must not mistreat any widow or any orphan (UST)

If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement. Alternate translation: "You must treat all widows and fatherless children fairly" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

widow (ULT)

widow (UST)

Alternate translation: "woman whose husband has died"

or fatherless child (ULT)

or any orphan (UST)

Alternate translation: "or child with no parents"

Translation Words - ULT

- [You shall...afflict](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You must...mistreat](#)

ULT

²² [You shall](#) not [afflict](#) any widow or fatherless child.

UST

²² [You must](#) not [mistreat](#) any widow or any orphan.

Exodus 22:23

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- you...afflict
- they...cry out
- their cry

Translation Words - UST

- you mistreat
- and they ask...to help them
- I will help them

ULT

²³ If you actually afflict them, and if they actually cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry,

UST

²³ If you mistreat them and they ask me to help them, I will help them.

Exodus 22:24

and my nose will burn (ULT) Because I will be angry with you (UST)

This is an idiom meaning that Yahweh will be angry. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: “and I will become very angry” (See: [Idiom](#))

with the sword (ULT) in war (UST)

To be killed **with the sword** is a metonym that means a person will die violently, perhaps while fighting in a war. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “violently” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [with the sword](#)
- [and your sons](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [in war](#)
- [and your children](#)

ULT

²⁴ and my nose will burn, and I will kill you [with the sword](#); your wives will become widows, [and your sons](#) will become fatherless.

UST

²⁴ Because I will be angry with you, I will cause you to die [in war](#). Your wives will become widows, [and your children](#) will become orphans.

Exodus 22:25

like a creditor (ULT)

like a moneylender (UST)

Alternate translation: "like one who lends money"

you shall not put interest on him (ULT)

not...by requiring...him...to pay interest on the money (UST)

Alternate translation: "you must not charge him extra money for borrowing" or "you must not charge him extra money for the loan"

Translation Words - ULT

- silver
- to my people

Translation Words - UST

- money
- to any of my people

ULT

²⁵ If you lend silver to my people, the poor with you, you shall not be like a creditor to him—you shall not put interest on him.

UST

²⁵ If you lend money to any of my people who are poor, do not act like a moneylender by requiring him to pay interest on the money.

Exodus 22:26

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- you...take...in pledge
- you shall return it

Translation Words - UST

- you make him give you...to guarantee that he will pay the money back
- you must give the cloak back

ULT

²⁶ If you actually **take** the clothing of your neighbor **in pledge**, you shall **return it** to him before the sun goes down,

UST

²⁶ If you make him give you his cloak to guarantee that he will pay the money back, you must give the cloak back to him before the sun goes down,

Exodus 22:27

is his only covering (ULT) is the only thing...he has to cover (UST)

Alternate translation: "is his only coat" or "is his only garment to keep him warm"

In what will he lie down (ULT) when he sleeps (UST)

This question adds emphasis. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "He will have nothing to wear while he sleeps!" (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [he cries](#)
- [am gracious](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [he complains about you](#)
- [am merciful](#)

ULT

²⁷ for it is his only covering; it is his clothing for his skin. In what will he lie down? And it will be when [he cries](#) to me, that I will hear him, for I [am gracious](#).

UST

²⁷ because his cloak is the only thing he has to cover his body when he sleeps. When [he complains about you](#) to me, I will help him because I [am merciful](#).

Exodus 22:28

You shall not act contemptuously toward God (ULT)

Do not insult God (UST)

Alternate translation: "Do not insult God" or "Do not speak evil about God"

and you shall not curse a ruler of your people (ULT)

and do not call on God to do harmful things to any ruler of your people (UST)

Alternate translation: "and do not ask God to do bad things to your ruler"

Translation Words - ULT

- You shall...act contemptuously toward
- God
- and you shall...curse
- a ruler of
- your people

Translation Words - UST

- Do...insult
- God
- do...call on God to do harmful things
- and...to any ruler of
- your people

ULT

²⁸ You shall not act contemptuously toward God, and you shall not curse a ruler of your people.

UST

²⁸ Do not insult God, and do not call on God to do harmful things to any ruler of your people.

Exodus 22:29

You shall not hold back (ULT) Do not withhold from me (UST)

If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement. Alternate translation: "You must bring all of your offerings" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [from your full harvest](#)
- [the firstborn of](#)
- [your sons](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the best parts of the grain that you harvest](#)
- [your firstborn](#)
- [sons](#)

ULT

²⁹ You shall not hold back [from your full harvest](#) or your presses. You shall give [the firstborn of your sons](#) to me.

UST

²⁹ Do not withhold from me [the best parts of the grain that you harvest](#) or of the olive oil or the wine that you produce. You will give [your firstborn sons](#) to me.

Exodus 22:30

Seven (ULT)

After those animals are born...for seven (UST)

Alternate translation: "7" (See: [Numbers](#))

on the eighth day (ULT)

On the eighth day (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "on day 8" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- to your ox
- and to your sheep
- days
- on...day

Translation Words - UST

- your firstborn male cattle
- and sheep
- days
- On the eighth day

ULT

³⁰ You shall do the same to your ox and to your sheep. Seven days it will be with its mother; on the eighth day you shall give it to me.

UST

³⁰ Similarly, your firstborn male cattle and sheep belong to me. After those animals are born, allow them to stay with their mothers for seven days. On the eighth day you will give them to me.

Exodus 22:31**And you shall be men of holiness to me (ULT)
You are my set apart people (UST)**

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. Alternate translation: "And you shall be holy men to men" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [holiness](#)
- [And...meat](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [set apart](#)
- [so...any meat](#)

ULT

³¹ And you shall be men of [holiness](#) to me. And you shall not eat animal-torn-in-the-field [meat](#). You shall throw it to the dogs.

UST

³¹ You are my [set apart](#) people, [so](#) do not eat [any meat](#) from any animal that a wild animal killed. Instead, throw it where the dogs can eat it.

Exodus 23

Exodus 23 General Notes

Structure

This chapter continues the list of case laws for Israel. It also touches on the patterns of life regarding the Sabbaths ([verses 10-12](#)) and Festivals ([verses 14-19](#)). At [verse 20](#) Yahweh begins telling them about their future as they go to and live in the promised land.

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Celebrations of feasts and festivals

The people of Israel were required to celebrate certain feasts and festivals. These were part of the law of Moses, and some are described in this chapter. Their purpose was to worship Yahweh and to remember the great things Yahweh has done for them.

Exodus 23:1

General Information:

Yahweh continues telling Moses his laws for the people of Israel.

You shall not take up a report of emptiness (ULT)

Do not speak falsely in court (UST)

If your language does not use abstract nouns for the ideas of **report** and **emptiness**, you can express the same idea in another way.

Alternate translation: "You must not report emptily" or "You must not report falsely" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

a report of emptiness (ULT)

Do...speak falsely in court (UST)

Alternate translation: "a false testimony"

You shall not put your hand with the wicked (ULT)

Do not help an evil man (UST)

Here, to **put your hand with the wicked** means to support the lies that he is telling in order to harm someone else. The image is of putting out your hand to help him, to make him stronger than he would be on his own. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "You must not assist the wicked" (See: [Idiom](#))

a witness of violence (ULT)

by testifying...maliciously (UST)

Here, **violence** can also mean "wrong." Either way, it means to harm another person by committing injustice (violence to justice) by lying. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "a false witness" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a report of
- a witness of

Translation Words - UST

- Do...speak falsely in court
- by testifying

ULT

¹ You shall not take up a report of emptiness. You shall not put your hand with the wicked to be a witness of violence.

UST

¹ Do not speak falsely in court. Do not help an evil man by testifying maliciously.

Exodus 23:2

nor shall you testify (ULT)

Do not tell (UST)

Alternate translation: “and you also must not speak”

You shall not follow a crowd into evil (ULT)

Do not join a group of people who are planning to do something evil (UST)

This is a metaphor that describes one’s agreeing with a group of people as if he actually walked behind that group. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “You must not do the evil that the crowd wants” or “You must not agree with the majority for evil” (See: [Metaphor](#))

to turn aside...that turns aside (ULT)

and so keep the judge from deciding the case justly...the same lies they do (UST)

The phrase “from justice” is omitted twice but should be understood in both cases. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. Alternate translation: “to turn aside from justice ... that turns aside from justice” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

to turn aside...that turns aside (ULT)

and so keep the judge from deciding the case justly...the same lies they do (UST)

Here, **to turn aside** means to do illegal or immoral actions that result in an unjust ruling. Alternate translation: “to pervert justice ... that perverts justice”

Translation Words - ULT

- [into evil](#)
- [shall you testify](#)
- [to turn aside](#)
- [that turns aside](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [who are planning to do something evil](#)
- [Do...tell](#)
- [and so keep the judge from deciding the case justly](#)
- [the same lies they do](#)

ULT

² You shall not follow a crowd [into evil](#), nor [shall you testify](#) on legal matters [to turn aside](#) behind the crowd [that turns aside](#).

UST

² Do not join a group of people [who are planning to do something evil](#). Do not [tell the same lies they do](#) and so [keep the judge from deciding the case justly](#).

Exodus 23:3

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- you shall...favor

Translation Words - UST

- Do...prefer

ULT

³ And you shall not favor the poor in his lawsuit.

UST

³ Do not prefer someone in court just because he is poor.

Exodus 23:4

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the ox of
- your enemy
- his donkey
- you shall...bring it back

Translation Words - UST

- someone's...the owner is your enemy
- bull
- donkey
- take it back...even if

ULT

⁴ If you meet the ox of your enemy or his donkey going astray, you shall certainly bring it back to him.

UST

⁴ If you see someone's bull or donkey when it is wandering away loose, take it back to its owner even if the owner is your enemy.

Exodus 23:5

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the donkey of
- its load

Translation Words - UST

- donkey
- because of its heavy load

ULT

⁵ If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen to the ground under its load, you shall refrain from leaving him. You shall surely release it with him.

UST

⁵ If you see someone's donkey that has fallen down because of its heavy load, help the owner to get the donkey up again even if he is someone who hates you. Do not just walk away without helping him.

Exodus 23:6

You shall not turn aside justice for your poor in his lawsuit (ULT)

Decide the cases of poor people who are on trial as fairly as you judge the cases of other people (UST)

Alternate translation: "Do not decide to treat a poor man unjustly in legal matters"

in his lawsuit (ULT)

the cases of...who are on trial (UST)

Here, **in his lawsuit** refers to any matter that a court decides.

Translation Words - ULT

- You shall...turn aside
- justice

Translation Words - UST

- Decide...as fairly as you judge the cases of other people
- Decide...as fairly as you judge the cases of other people

ULT

⁶ You shall not turn aside justice for your poor in his lawsuit.

UST

⁶ Decide the cases of poor people who are on trial as fairly as you judge the cases of other people.

Exodus 23:7

You shall be far from a word of deception

(ULT)

Do not deceive others (UST)

Here distance is used figuratively to tell the Israelites to have no part in deception. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "Do not speak deceptively" or "Do not join a false matter" (See: [Metaphor](#))

and...the innocent or righteous (ULT)

guiltless or upright people (UST)

These two terms mean very similar things, both of which contrast with **the wicked** later in the verse. If your language does not use repetition in this way, you can combine these phrases. Alternate translation: "and ... the person who has not done anything wrong or the person who always does what is right" or "and ... the person who does right and not wrong" (See: [Doublet](#))

I will not justify the wicked (ULT)

I will not say that evil people are good (UST)

Alternate translation: "I will not find the wicked not guilty" or "I will not say that a wicked person is innocent"

Translation Words - ULT

- [deception](#)
- [you shall...kill](#)
- [and...the innocent](#)
- [or righteous](#)
- [I will...justify](#)
- [the wicked](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Do not deceive others](#)
- [Do...kill](#)
- [guiltless](#)
- [or upright people](#)
- [I will...say that...are good](#)
- [evil people](#)

ULT

⁷ You shall be far from a word of [deception](#), and [you shall](#) not [kill the innocent or righteous](#), for [I will](#) not [justify the wicked](#).

UST

⁷ [Do not deceive others](#). Do not [kill guiltless or upright people](#), because [I will](#) not [say that evil people are good](#).

Exodus 23:8

for the bribe blinds the clear-sighted, and it perverts the words of the righteous (ULT) because good judges who take bribes do not judge wisely, and they unfairly judge against the person who is right (UST)

Here, a “bribe” is described as if it could take action itself that negatively affects justice. If this might be confusing for your readers, you could express this meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “for if you do, an evil person can give money to blind the clear-sighted and to pervert the words of the righteous” (See: [Personification](#))

ULT

⁸ And you shall not take a [bribe](#), for [the bribe](#) blinds the clear-sighted, [and it perverts](#) the words of [the righteous](#).

UST

⁸ Do not accept a [bribe](#), because [good judges who take bribes do not judge wisely, and they unfairly judge against the person who is right](#).

for the bribe blinds the clear-sighted, and it perverts the words of the righteous (ULT) because good judges who take bribes do not judge wisely, and they unfairly judge against the person who is right (UST)

To **blind the clear-sighted** is a metaphor that means causing those who know what is right to act like they do not. And **perverts the words of the righteous** could mean causes those who would speak the truth (in court) to lie or causes the judge to give an evil judgment or causes those listening to **the words of the righteous** to choose to act as if they had heard something different. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “for a bribe causes those who understand the right thing to do not to do it and causes good men to speak lies” (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And...a bribe](#)
- [the bribe](#)
- [and it perverts](#)
- [the righteous](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a bribe](#)
- [good judges who take bribes do not judge wisely](#)
- [and they unfairly judge against the person who is right](#)
- [and they unfairly judge against the person who is right](#)

Exodus 23:9**the soul of the foreigner (ULT)
how foreigners often feel (UST)**

Alternate translation: "the feelings of the foreigner"

Translation Words - ULT

- you shall...oppress
- And...a foreigner
- the foreigner
- foreigners
- you...know
- the soul of
- in the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- Do...mistreat
- foreigners who live among you
- how foreigners often feel
- as foreigners
- know
- how foreigners often feel
- in Egypt
- in Egypt

ULT

⁹ And you shall not oppress a foreigner, since you yourself know the soul of the foreigner, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.

UST

⁹ Do not mistreat foreigners who live among you. You know how foreigners often feel, because you lived as foreigners in Egypt.

Exodus 23:10

its produce (ULT)
the harvest (UST)

Alternate translation: "the food its plants produce"

And six (ULT)
For six (UST)

Alternate translation: "And 6" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- you shall sow
- your land

Translation Words - UST

- plant seeds
- in your ground

ULT

¹⁰ And six years you shall sow your land and gather its produce.

UST

¹⁰ For six years, plant seeds in your ground and gather the harvest.

Exodus 23:11

But the seventh (ULT)

But in the seventh year (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "But year 7" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

you shall let it drop and leave it alone (ULT)

you must leave the ground fallow (UST)

This means to leave the land fallow, that is, in its natural state, unplowed, unplanted, not used to grow food. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and the poor of your people shall eat (ULT)

Allow your poor countrymen to eat {what grows on its own (UST)

The poor can eat any food that grows on its own in a field that is not cultivated. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "so the poor among your people may harvest and eat any food that grows on its own in that field" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [your people](#)
- [to your vineyard](#)
- [and to your olive orchard](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [your...countrymen](#)
- [with your grapevine](#)
- [and your olive trees](#)

ULT

¹¹ But the seventh you shall let it drop and leave it alone, and the poor of [your people](#) shall eat. And the living things of the field shall eat the remainder. You shall do thus [to your vineyard and to your olive orchard](#).

UST

¹¹ But in the seventh year you must leave the ground fallow. Allow your poor [countrymen](#) to eat {what grows on its own}. Whatever is left over is for the wild animals to eat. Do the same thing [with your grapevine and your olive trees](#).

Exodus 23:12

your ox and your donkey (ULT) your ox and donkey (UST)

Alternate translation: "your work animals"

Six (ULT) for six (UST)

Alternate translation: "6" (See: [Numbers](#))

and on the seventh day (ULT) but on the seventh day...The rest day (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "and on day 7" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

and the son of your female slave and the sojourner may be refreshed (ULT) will also let your slaves and the foreigners who live among you recuperate (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "and the son of your female slave and the sojourner may refresh themselves" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [days](#)
- [and on...day](#)
- [your ox](#)
- [and your donkey](#)
- [may rest](#)
- [the son of](#)
- [your female slave](#)
- [and the sojourner](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [days each week](#)
- [but on](#)
- [your ox](#)
- [and donkey](#)
- [may rest](#)
- [your slaves](#)
- [your slaves](#)
- [and the foreigners who live among you](#)

ULT

¹² Six [days](#) you shall do your work, [and on the seventh day](#) you shall rest so that [your ox and your donkey may rest](#), and the son of your female slave and the sojourner may be refreshed.

UST

¹² You may work for six [days each week](#), [but on](#) the seventh day you must rest and not work. Do this so that [your ox and donkey may rest](#). The rest day will also let [your slaves and the foreigners who live among you](#) recuperate.

Exodus 23:13

**You shall take heed to (ULT)
Make certain that you obey (UST)**

Alternate translation: "Do" or "Obey"

**You shall not mention the names of other
gods, nor let them be heard on your mouth
(ULT)
Do not pray to other gods. Do not even
mention their names (UST)**

These two instructions mean almost the same thing. If saying the same thing twice might be confusing for your readers, you can combine the phrases into one. Alternate translation: "Be sure never to speak the names of other gods" (See: [Parallelism](#))

**You shall not mention the names of other gods, nor let them be heard on
your mouth (ULT)
Do not pray to other gods. Do not even mention their names (UST)**

These parallel phrases probably mean praying to other gods. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "Do not pray to other gods, never let me hear you do that" (See: [Metonymy](#))

**nor let them be heard on your mouth (ULT)
Do not pray to (UST)**

To be **on your mouth** means to speak. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "nor speak them" (See: [Metonymy](#))

**nor let them be heard on your mouth (ULT)
Do not pray to (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Also see previous note. Alternate translation: "nor speak them so someone could hear them" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [You shall take heed to](#)
- [the names of](#)
- [gods](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Make certain that you obey](#)
- [gods...their](#)
- [names](#)

ULT

¹³ [You shall take heed to](#) everything that I have said to you. You shall not mention [the names of](#) other [gods](#), nor let them be heard on your mouth.

UST

¹³ [Make certain that you obey](#) everything that I have commanded you to do. Do not pray to other [gods](#). Do not even mention [their names](#).

Exodus 23:14

three (ULT)

three (UST)

Alternate translation: "3" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [You shall celebrate](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [you must travel to...celebrations](#)

ULT

¹⁴ [You shall celebrate](#) me three times every year.

UST

¹⁴ Every year [you must travel to](#) three [celebrations](#) to honor me:

Exodus 23:15

Aviv (ULT)

Aviv (UST)

Aviv is the name of the first month of the Hebrew calendar. Aviv is during the last part of March and the first part of April on Western calendars. See how you translated this in [Exodus 13:4](#). You could convert the Hebrew day and month into an approximate date on the calendar that your culture uses. However, the Jews used a lunar calendar, so if you use a solar calendar, the date will be different every year and the translation will not be entirely accurate. So you may just want to give the number of the day and the name of the month on the Hebrew calendar, and say approximately what time of year that is on your calendar in a footnote. (See: [Hebrew Months](#))

seven (ULT)

for seven (UST)

Alternate translation: "7" (See: [Numbers](#))

And you shall not appear at my face empty-handed (ULT)

Do not come to worship me without bringing an offering (UST)

Understatement is used here to emphasize that the Israelites must bring a suitable offering to Yahweh. If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement.

Alternate translation: "You must not come to me without a proper offering" or "You must always bring an offering to me" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Festival of](#)
- [Unleavened Bread](#)
- [unleavened bread](#)
- [days](#)
- [I commanded you](#)
- [at the appointed time](#)
- [the month of](#)
- [from Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Feast of](#)
- [Unleavened Bread](#)
- [unleavened bread](#)
- [I commanded you](#)
- [days](#)
- [in the month called](#)
- [I set this time](#)
- [Egypt](#)

ULT

¹⁵ You shall keep [the Festival of Unleavened Bread](#). You shall eat [unleavened bread](#) seven [days](#), as [I commanded you](#), at the [appointed time](#), the month of Aviv, for in it you came out from Egypt. And you shall not appear at my face empty-handed.

UST

¹⁵ Celebrate [the Feast of Unleavened Bread](#) the way that [I commanded you](#): eat [unleavened bread](#) for seven [days](#) in the month called Aviv. [I set this time](#) because it is the month when you left Egypt. Do not come to worship me without bringing an offering.

Exodus 23:16

And {you shall keep} the Festival of the Harvest (ULT)
The second celebration is the Spring} Harvest Celebration (UST)

Elsewhere this is called the “Festival of Weeks.” See [Exodus 34:22](#) and [Deuteronomy 16:9](#) and following.

And {you shall keep} the Festival of...the Gathering (ULT)
The second celebration is the...Finished Harvest Celebration (UST)

This festival celebrated the final harvesting of all the crops for the year. This festival was also known as the Festival of Shelters or the Festival of Booths. The idea came from the practice of the farmers living in temporary booths, or huts, out in the fields to guard the crop as it ripened. See [Deuteronomy 16:13](#). Alternate translation: “And the Festival of the Ingathering”

in the exiting of the year (ULT)
That will be at the end of the year (UST)

The phrase **in the exiting of the year** means at the end of the year. The year is pictured as something that is leaving. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “as the year goes out” (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And {you shall keep} the Festival of](#)
- [And {you shall keep} the Festival of \(2\)](#)
- [the Harvest](#)
- [bringing} the first fruits](#)
- [of your labors](#)
- [your labors](#)
- [the year](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The second celebration is the](#)
- [The third celebration is} the \(2\)](#)
- [Spring} Harvest Celebration](#)
- [During that celebration you must offer to me} the first parts of your crops](#)
- [that grow from the seeds that you planted](#)
- [everything you planted](#)
- [That will be at the end of the year](#)

ULT

16 [And {you shall keep} the Festival of the Harvest, {bringing} the first fruits of your labors](#) which you sowed in the field. [And {you shall keep} the Festival of the Gathering in the exiting of the year, {bringing} in your gathering of your labors](#) from the field.

UST

16 [{The second celebration is the Spring} Harvest Celebration. {During that celebration you must offer to me} the first parts of your crops that grow from the seeds that you planted. {The third celebration is} the Finished Harvest Celebration. That will be at the end of the year, after you finish harvesting everything you planted.](#)

Exodus 23:17

All your males must appear before the Lord Yahweh

Here, to **appear to the face of the Lord Yahweh** means to gather to worship. **To the face** is a metonym for Yahweh's presence, referring to worship. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "must come to worship the Lord Yahweh" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Lord](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Lord](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

¹⁷ Three times in a year, all your males shall appear to the face of [the Lord Yahweh](#).

UST

¹⁷ These three times every year, all the men must gather together to worship me, [the Lord Yahweh](#).

Exodus 23:18

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- You shall...sacrifice
- my sacrifice
- the blood of
- my festival

Translation Words - UST

- Do...sacrifice
- from an animal sacrifice
- blood
- from the animals you sacrificed at my celebration

ULT

¹⁸ You shall not sacrifice the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread, and the fat of my festival shall not remain all night until morning.

UST

¹⁸ Do not sacrifice bread you made with yeast along with blood from an animal sacrifice. Do not keep the fat from the animals you sacrificed at my celebration until the next morning. {Burn it completely.}

Exodus 23:19

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- firstfruits of
- to the house of
- Yahweh
- your God
- a young goat

Translation Words - UST

- what you harvest first
- to the place where you worship...and give it to
- me...me, Yahweh
- your God
- When you kill} a young animal...it...it

ULT

¹⁹ You shall bring the first of the firstfruits of your ground to the house of Yahweh your God. You shall not boil a young goat in the milk of its mother.

UST

¹⁹ {Each year, when you harvest your crops,} take the best of what you harvest first, go to the place where you worship me, and give it to me, Yahweh your God. {When you kill} a young animal, do not cook it by boiling it in its mother's milk.

Exodus 23:20

before your face (ULT) ahead of you (UST)

This means "in front of you." Alternate translation: "in front of you"
(See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [am about to send](#)
- [an angel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [am going to send](#)
- [an angel](#)

ULT

²⁰ Behold, I [am about to send an angel](#) before your face to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared.

UST

²⁰ Look! I [am going to send an angel](#) ahead of you to guard you as you travel and to lead you to the place that I have made ready for you.

Exodus 23:21

Be guarded from his face (ULT) Respect (UST)

This means to respect him; **from his face** refers to his person. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "Show respect to him" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Be guarded from his face (ULT) Respect (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "Pay attention to him" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Do not cause bitterness in him, for he will not bear with your transgressions, for my name is within him (ULT) Do not make him angry, because he will not forgive your sin, because my authority and presence is in him (UST)

There are two reasons given for the instruction **do not cause bitterness in him**. They are connected in such a way that you could say: "Because my name is within him, he will not forgive your transgressions; therefore, do not cause bitterness in him." The relation of the **name** and **forgiveness** is not explicit. Alternate translation: "If you provoke him, he will not pardon your sins, for my name is within him" (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

my name is within him (ULT) my authority and presence is in him (UST)

Here, **name** refers to God's authority. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "he has my authority" (See: [Metonymy](#))

and listen to his voice (ULT) and obey him (UST)

Here, **voice** represents what the angel says. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "and obey what he says" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Be guarded](#)
- [to his voice](#)
- [your transgressions](#)
- [my name](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Respect](#)

ULT

²¹ [Be guarded](#) from his face and listen [to his voice](#). Do not cause bitterness in him, for he will not bear with [your transgressions](#), for [my name](#) is within him.

UST

²¹ [Respect and obey him](#). Do not make him angry, because he will not forgive [your sin](#), because [my authority and presence](#) is in him.

- and obey him
- your sin
- my authority and presence

Exodus 23:22

if you indeed heed his voice (ULT) if you obey his commands well (UST)

Here, **voice** represents what the angel says. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "if you carefully obey what he says" (See: [Metonymy](#))

then I will be an enemy to your enemies and I will be an adversary to your adversaries (ULT) I will fight against all of your enemies and adversaries (UST)

These two phrases mean the same thing and are used for emphasis. If saying the same thing twice might be confusing for your readers, you can combine the phrases into one. (See: [Parallelism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [his voice](#)
- [to your enemies](#)
- [to your adversaries](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [his commands](#)
- [your enemies](#)
- [and adversaries](#)

ULT

²² For if you indeed heed [his voice](#) and do everything that I speak, then I will be an enemy [to your enemies](#) and I will be an adversary [to your adversaries](#).

UST

²² But if you obey [his commands](#) well and if you do all that I tell you to do, I will fight against all of [your enemies and adversaries](#).

Exodus 23:23

before your face (ULT) ahead of you (UST)

This phrase, **before your face**, means “in front of you.” Alternate translation: “in front of you” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- my angel
- the Amorites
- and the Hittites
- and the Perizzites
- and the Canaanites
- the Hivites
- and the Jebusites
- I will annihilate them

Translation Words - UST

- my angel
- the Amor
- Heth
- Periz
- Canaan
- Hiv
- and Jebus people groups
- and I will completely get rid of them

ULT

²³ For my angel will go before your face and bring you to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites. I will annihilate them.

UST

²³ Then my angel will go ahead of you and will take you to where the Amor, Heth, Periz, Canaan, Hiv, and Jebus people groups live, and I will completely get rid of them.

Exodus 23:24

and you shall not do as they do (ULT)
Do not do the things that they {think that their gods want them to} do (UST)

The Israelites must not live as the people who worship other gods. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: “and you must not live as the people live who worship those gods” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- You shall...bow down
- to their gods
- you shall...serve them

Translation Words - UST

- Do...bow down
- before their gods
- worship them

ULT

²⁴ You shall not bow down to their gods, and you shall not serve them, and you shall not do as they do. For you shall completely overthrow them and completely smash their stone pillars.

UST

²⁴ Do not bow down before their gods or worship them. Do not do the things that they {think that their gods want them to} do. Instead, destroy {their gods} and smash to pieces their sacred stones.

Exodus 23:25**and he will bless your bread and your water****(ULT)****If you do that, I will bless your food and water****(UST)**

Here, **your bread and your water** is a merism that means food and drink. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “and he will bless your food and drink” or “and he will bless you by giving you food and drink” (See: [Merism](#))

and he will bless...And I will remove (ULT)**If you do that, I will bless...and I will protect****(UST)**

Yahweh switched between the first and third pronoun to refer to himself. Here, both **he** and **I** refer to Yahweh. (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And you shall serve](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [your God](#)
- [and he will bless](#)
- [your bread](#)
- [your water](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You must worship](#)
- [me, Yahweh](#)
- [your God](#)
- [If you do that, I will bless](#)
- [your food](#)
- [water](#)

ULT

²⁵ [And you shall serve Yahweh your God, and he will bless your bread and your water.](#) And I will remove sickness from among you.

UST

²⁵ [You must worship me, Yahweh your God. If you do that, I will bless your food and water,](#) and I will protect you from becoming sick.

Exodus 23:26

There will not be a miscarriage or a barren woman (ULT)

No women...will have miscarriages, and no women will be unable to become pregnant (UST)

If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement. Alternate translation: "Every woman will be able to become pregnant and give birth to healthy babies" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

a miscarriage (ULT)

miscarriages (UST)

to have a pregnancy end early and unexpectedly, resulting in the death of the baby

I will fulfill the number of your days (ULT)

I will enable you to live a long time (UST)

This is an idiom that means to live a long time. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "I will give you a long life" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [or a barren woman](#)
- [in your land](#)
- [your days](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [in your land](#)
- [and no women will be unable to become pregnant](#)
- [I will enable you to live a long time](#)

ULT

²⁶ There will not be a miscarriage [or a barren woman in your land](#). I will fulfill the number of [your days](#).

UST

²⁶ No women [in your land](#) will have miscarriages, [and no women will be unable to become pregnant](#). I will [enable you to live a long time](#).

Exodus 23:27**before your face (ULT)
I will go} ahead of you (UST)**

This means “ahead of you.” Alternate translation: “before you” (See: [Metonymy](#))

**and I will give the back of the neck of all of
your enemies to you (ULT)
When you fight} your enemies, I will make
them run away from you (UST)**

This is an idiom meaning that the enemies will turn and run away (showing the Israelites the backs of their necks). If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: “and I will make all of your enemies flee” (See: [Idiom](#))

ULT

²⁷ I will send my terror before your face, and I will confuse all of the people into whom you will go, and I will give the back of the neck of all of your enemies to you.

UST

²⁷ {I will go} ahead of you and terrify and confuse all the people into whose {lands} you are going. {When you fight} your enemies, I will make them run away from you.

Translation Words - ULT

- I will send
- my terror
- the people
- your enemies

Translation Words - UST

- and terrify
- and terrify
- the people
- your enemies

Exodus 23:28

before your face...from before your face (ULT) ahead of you...from your land (UST)

This means "ahead of you." Alternate translation: "before you ... from before you" (See: [Metonymy](#))

the hornet (ULT) wasps (UST)

The **hornet** is a flying insect that can sting people and cause pain. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

the hornet...and it will drive out (ULT) wasps...who will drive (UST)

Here, **hornet** is used in the singular but refers to a large group of the flying, stinging insects. **It** agrees in number with **hornet**. It may be necessary to translate as a plural. Alternate translation: "hornets ... and they will drive out" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And I will send](#)
- [Hivites...the](#)
- [the...Canaanites](#)
- [Hittites](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [I will send](#)
- [the Hiv](#)
- [Canaan](#)
- [Heth people groups](#)

ULT

²⁸ [And I will send](#) the hornet before your face, and it will drive out the [Hivites](#), [Canaanites](#), and [the Hittites](#) from before your face.

UST

²⁸ [I will send](#) wasps ahead of you who will drive [the Hiv](#), [Canaan](#), and [Heth people groups](#) from your land.

Exodus 23:29**from before your face (ULT)
I will...remove all of them (UST)**

This means “ahead of you.” Alternate translation: “from before you”
(See: [Metonymy](#))

**lest the land become desolate (ULT)
If I did that, your land would become deserted (UST)**

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could make the rest of the idea explicit. Alternate translation: “lest the land become desolate because no one would be living in the land” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [in...year](#)
- [the land](#)
- [desolate](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [in less than one year](#)
- [your land](#)
- [deserted](#)

ULT

²⁹ I will not drive them out from before your face in one [year](#), lest [the land](#) become [desolate](#) and the animals of the field become too many for you.

UST

²⁹ I will not remove all of them [in less than one year](#). If I did that, [your land](#) would become [deserted](#), and there would be very many wild animals that would attack you.

Exodus 23:30**from before your face (ULT)****I will remove those people groups (UST)**

This means “ahead of you.” Alternate translation: “from before you”
(See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [you become fruitful](#)
- [and possess](#)
- [the land](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the number of your people increases](#)
- [and you are able to live everywhere](#)
- [in the land](#)

ULT

³⁰ I will drive them out little by little from before your face until [you become fruitful and possess the land](#).

UST

³⁰ I will remove those people groups slowly, a few at a time, until [the number of your people increases and you are able to live everywhere in the land](#).

Exodus 23:31

from before your faces (ULT) as you occupy more of the country (UST)

This means “ahead of you.” Alternate translation: “from before you” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- from the Sea of Reeds
- the sea of
- the Philistines
- and from the wilderness
- the river
- the land

Translation Words - UST

- from the Red Sea {in the southeast}
- the {Mediterranean} Sea by the Philistines {in the northwest}
- the...Mediterranean} Sea by the Philistines...in the northwest
- and from the wilderness {of Sinai in the southwest}
- the {Euphrates} River {in the northeast of the country}
- the people who live there

ULT

³¹ And I will set your borders from the Sea of Reeds to the sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the river. For I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand. And you will drive them out from before your faces.

UST

³¹ I will make your country's borders be from the Red Sea {in the southeast} to the {Mediterranean} Sea by the Philistines {in the northwest}, and from the wilderness {of Sinai in the southwest} to the {Euphrates} River {in the northeast of the country}. I will give you the power to remove the people who live there, so that you will remove them as you occupy more of the country.

Exodus 23:32

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- a covenant
- or with their gods

Translation Words - UST

- any agreement
- or with their gods

ULT

³² You shall not make a covenant with them or with their gods.

UST

³² You must not make any agreement with those people or with their gods.

Exodus 23:33

Surely it will become a snare for you (ULT) by enticing you (UST)

This means worshiping other gods will lead the people of Israel to certain destruction, as if they were an animal caught in a hunter's trap. It could also be saying that leaving the other people around will make it so that the Israelites see the other people's worship and are lured (like in a trap) into worshiping the other gods, which is a sin against Yahweh. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "Worshiping them will surely destroy you" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [in your land](#)
- [they cause...to sin](#)
- [you will serve](#)
- [their gods](#)
- [a snare](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [in your land](#)
- [they do not cause...to sin](#)
- [enticing](#)
- [to worship](#)
- [their gods](#)

ULT

³³ They shall not live [in your land](#), lest [they cause you to sin](#) against me; for [you will serve their gods](#). Surely it will become [a snare](#) for you."

UST

³³ Do not allow those people to live [in your land](#), so [they do not cause you to sin](#) against me by [enticing you to worship their gods](#)."

Exodus 24

Exodus 24 General Notes

Structure

- v. 1-2: Yahweh summons Moses
- v. 3-8: Moses reads the covenant and the people accept it; this is ritually marked by sacrifice and sprinkling of blood
- v. 9-11: Moses and Israelite elders go up the mountain, see God and eat
- v. 12-15: Yahweh summons Moses further up the mountain without the other elders, and he goes
- v. 16-18: Description of Yahweh's glory, and Moses is at the top of the mountain

Potential Translation Issues

- there are a number of similes used to describe people's encounter with God
- "covenant" appears in a variety of ways
- the mountain, the mountain of God, and Mount Sinai are all the same location

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Moses' covenant

The people of Israel promise to obey the covenant Yahweh made with Moses. Their continued blessings were contingent upon their obedience to this covenant. (See: [promise](#), [promised](#) and [covenant](#))

God's holiness

Because Yahweh is perfectly holy, he can only be approached in a certain way. Because of this, only Moses was allowed near Yahweh. This is also why Yahweh is described as a "devouring fire." (See: [holy](#), [holiness](#), [unholy](#), [sacred](#))

Exodus 24:1

Nadab...Abihu

A new scene begins here, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Nadab and Abihu (ULT) and {his sons} Nadab and Abihu (UST)

Nadab and Abihu are men's names. See how you translated these names in [Exodus 6:23](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

to Yahweh (ULT) to me {on top of this mountain} (UST)

Yahweh refers to himself in the third person. If this is confusing in your language, you may use the first person. Alternate translation: "to me" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

and seventy (ULT) Also take along seventy of (UST)

Alternate translation: "and 70" (See: [Numbers](#))

and you shall bow down (ULT) You will all worship me (UST)

Here, after **bow down**, "to me" is implied. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "and you shall bow down to me" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [from the elders of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [and you shall bow down](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [me](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [the Israelite](#)
- [elders](#)
- [You will all worship me](#)

ULT

¹ And he said to [Moses](#), "Come up to [Yahweh](#)—you [and Aaron](#), [Nadab and Abihu](#) and seventy [from the elders of Israel](#), and you shall bow down from a distance.

UST

¹ Then Yahweh said to [Moses](#). "Come up to [me](#) {on top of this mountain}, you [and Aaron](#) and {his sons} [Nadab and Abihu](#). Also take along seventy of [the Israelite elders](#). [You will all worship me](#) at an {appropriate} distance.

Exodus 24:2

and they (ULT)

The others (UST)

Here, **they** refers to all the other people mentioned in [verse 1](#).

Alternate translation: “and Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the elders” (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

to Yahweh (ULT)

to me (UST)

Yahweh refers to himself in the third person. If this is confusing in your language, you may use the first person. Alternate translation: “to me” (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [and the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses, you](#)
- [me](#)
- [and the rest of the people](#)

ULT

² And [Moses](#) alone shall come near to [Yahweh](#), and they shall not come near, [and the people](#) shall not come up with him.”

UST

² [Moses, you](#) will come near to [me](#) alone. The others must not come near, [and the rest of the people](#) must not come up the mountain with you.”

Exodus 24:3

with one voice

Verses 3-8 tell of a different scene than the rest of the chapter, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. It seems that there were some preparations needed before Moses and the elders could go up to meet Yahweh. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

with one voice

See [Exodus 19:8](#) for how you translated a very similar event.

with one voice (ULT) replied together (UST)

Here, **with one voice** is an idiom that means the people were in complete agreement. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: “together” or “in agreement” (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [to the people](#)
- [the people](#)
- [the words of Yahweh](#)
- [the ordinances](#)
- [voice](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the people](#)
- [The people](#)
- [Yahweh had said](#)
- [he had commanded](#)
- [replied together](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

³ And [Moses](#) went and recounted [to the people](#) all of [the words of Yahweh](#) and all of [the ordinances](#). And all of [the people](#) answered with one [voice](#) and said, “We will do all the things that [Yahweh](#) has spoken.”

UST

³ [Moses](#) went and told [the people](#) everything that [Yahweh had said](#) and all that [he had commanded](#). [The people](#) all [replied together](#), saying, “We will do everything that [Yahweh](#) has told us to do.”

Exodus 24:4

at the bottom of the mountain (ULT)
at the bottom of the mountain (UST)

Alternate translation: "at the base of the mountain"

and twelve...according to the twelve (ULT)
He also set up twelve...one for each of the (UST)

Alternate translation: "and 12 ... according to the 12" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [the words of Yahweh](#)
- [an altar](#)
- [tribes of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh had commanded](#)
- [an altar](#)
- [Israelite tribes](#)
- [Israelite tribes](#)

ULT

⁴ And [Moses](#) wrote all of [the words of Yahweh](#). And he rose early in the morning and built [an altar](#) at the bottom of the mountain and twelve stone pillars according to the twelve [tribes of Israel](#).

UST

⁴ Then [Moses](#) wrote down everything that [Yahweh had commanded](#). Moses woke early the next morning and built [an altar](#) at the bottom of the mountain. He also set up twelve stones, one for each of the [Israelite tribes](#).

Exodus 24:5

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- He sent
- the sons of
- Israel
- burnt offerings
- and sacrificed
- peace offerings
- of bulls
- to Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- Then he sent
- Israelite
- Israelite
- to burn sacrifices
- to Yahweh
- and to sacrifice
- some bulls
- as offerings to promise friendship with Yahweh

ULT

⁵ He sent the young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of bulls to Yahweh.

UST

⁵ Then he sent some young Israelite men to burn sacrifices to Yahweh and to sacrifice some bulls as offerings to promise friendship with Yahweh.

Exodus 24:6

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- the blood
- the blood (2)
- the altar

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- the blood of the animals that they slaughtered
- the blood (2)
- the altar

ULT

⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it into basins and sprinkled half of the blood onto the altar.

UST

⁶ Moses took half of the blood of the animals that they slaughtered and put it in bowls. The other half of the blood he threw against the altar.

Exodus 24:7

the Book of the Covenant (ULT)
the scroll on which he had written everything
that Yahweh and the people were promising
each other (UST)

Here, **book** does not mean something in our modern format. It was likely a piece of papyrus (an early form of paper made from reeds) or animal skin that rolled up. Alternate translation: "the Covenant he had written down" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Covenant](#)
- [the people](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the scroll on which he had written everything that Yahweh and the people were promising each other](#)
- [the people](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

⁷ And he took the Book of [the Covenant](#) and read it aloud in the ears of [the people](#). And they said, "We will do and hear all that [Yahweh](#) has spoken."

UST

⁷ Then he loudly read [the scroll on which he had written everything that Yahweh and the people were promising each other](#) so all [the people](#) could hear it. Then all the people said, "We will do everything that [Yahweh](#) has told us to do. We will obey everything."

Exodus 24:8

the blood (ULT)

the blood...that was in the bowls (UST)

This refers to **the blood** that Moses had put into the bowls. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

according to all of these words (ULT)

what you just heard and agreed to (UST)

These words refers to what Moses just read aloud to them, that is, Yahweh's commands. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "which I just read aloud to you and you agreed to" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [the blood](#)
- [the blood of](#)
- [the people](#)
- [the covenant](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the blood...that was in the bowls](#)
- [the blood](#)
- [the people](#)
- [that confirms](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

⁸ And [Moses](#) took [the blood](#) and sprinkled it onto [the people](#). And he said, "Behold! [the blood of the covenant](#) that [Yahweh](#) has cut with you according to all of these words."

UST

⁸ Then [Moses](#) took [the blood](#) {[that was in the bowls](#)} and threw it on [the people](#). He said, "This is [the blood that confirms](#) what [Yahweh](#) is agreeing with you—what you just heard and agreed to."

Exodus 24:9

Nadab...Abihu

A new scene begins with this verse, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. Here the narrative is connected to [verse 2](#). (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Nadab and Abihu (ULT) along with Nadab, Abihu (UST)

Nadab and Abihu are men's names. See how you translated these names in [Exodus 6:23](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

And...went up (ULT) went up {the mountain} (UST)

The men **went up** the mountain. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Then Moses](#)
- [and Aaron](#)
- [Israelite](#)

ULT

⁹ And [Moses and Aaron](#), Nadab and Abihu and seventy from the elders of [Israel](#) went up.

UST

⁹ Then [Moses and Aaron](#) along with Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy [Israelite](#) elders went up {the mountain},

Exodus 24:10

And under his feet (ULT)

Under his feet (UST)

And under his feet speaks of God as if he had human feet. If this might be confusing for your readers, you could express this meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "And below where God was" (See: [Personification](#))

tile...of (ULT)

a pavement (UST)

a hard surface for walking or riding

sapphire (ULT)

made of blue stones called sapphires (UST)

A **sapphire** is a gemstone that is blue in color. If there is a blue gemstone that your people are familiar with, you may use it here, as the exact gemstone is not certain. You may also describe it. Alternate translation: "a blue gemstone" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and its substance was as the sky in purity (ULT)

They were as clear as the sky is when there are no clouds (UST)

The point of this comparison is the blueness of the tile. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent comparison or express this meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "and it was blue like the sky" (See: [Simile](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the God of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [the sky](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [God, the one whom](#)
- [the Israelites worship](#)
- [the sky is](#)

ULT

¹⁰ And they saw [the God of Israel](#). And under his feet was like tile made of sapphire, and its substance was as [the sky](#) in purity.

UST

¹⁰ and they saw [God, the one whom the Israelites worship](#). Under his feet was something like a pavement made of blue stones called sapphires. They were as clear as [the sky is](#) when there are no clouds.

Exodus 24:11

And he did not send out his hand to the leaders of the sons of Israel (ULT)
God did not harm those Israelite elders {even though they saw him (UST)}

Here, **his hand** refers to his judgement. This means that God did not harm the leaders. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "God did not harm the Israelite leaders" (See: [Metonymy](#))

And he did not send out his hand to the leaders of the sons of Israel (ULT)
God did not harm those Israelite elders {even though they saw him (UST)}

What would be expected is that they would die if they saw God. The Israelite elders ability to see God and live is unexpected. Be sure your translation conveys that. Alternate translation: "However, he did not send out his hand to the leaders of the sons of Israel" (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [those Israelite elders](#)
- [those Israelite elders](#)
- [God](#)

ULT

11 And he did not send out his hand to the leaders of [the sons of Israel](#). And they saw [God](#), and they ate and drank.

UST

11 God did not harm [those Israelite elders](#) {even though they saw him}. They saw [God](#), and they ate and drank together.

Exodus 24:12

to teach them (ULT) so that you may teach them to the people (UST)

This means so that Moses and the other Israelite leaders could teach the laws and commandments to the Israelite people. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- and the law
- and the commandments
- to teach them

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- my law
- and my commandments
- so that you may teach them to the people

ULT

¹² And Yahweh said to Moses, "Come up to me to the mountain and be there. And I will give you the tablets of stone and the law and the commandments that I have written to teach them."

UST

¹² Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Come up to me on top of this mountain and wait there. I will give you stone slabs, my law, and my commandments, all of which I have written so that you may teach them to the people."

Exodus 24:13

and...Joshua (ULT) with...Joshua (UST)

Joshua is introduced here again. Use the natural form in your language for reintroducing a character. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

and his servant Joshua (ULT) with his assistant Joshua (UST)

The word translated **servant** here is usually associated with a higher position, like a government minister. Avoid using a word that implies a lower-class serving role. Alternate translation: "and Joshua his assistant"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [his servant](#)
- [and...Joshua](#)
- [the mountain of God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [He](#)
- [his assistant](#)
- [with...Joshua](#)
- [the mountain where God was](#)

ULT

¹³ And [Moses](#) and [his servant Joshua](#) got up, and [Moses](#) went up to [the mountain of God](#).

UST

¹³ Then [Moses](#) started out with [his assistant Joshua](#). He went {part of the way} up [the mountain where God was](#).

Exodus 24:14

And he had said to the elders (ULT) Moses told the elders (UST)

The structure of the Hebrew indicates but does not require that this speech by Moses happened before [verse 13](#) (hence **had said**). The ULT takes this view, however, for languages where it is hard to express events out of order, the UST reflects the other grammatical possibility and says in [24:13](#) that Moses started up the mountain and in [24:15](#) that he went the rest of the way up the mountain. Following this, you can view this verse as if Moses paused and gave these final instructions as he was leaving the elders behind, thus keeping a sequential structure. Either approach is permissible by the text, but the approach of the ULT is preferred, if possible. (See: [Connect — Sequential Time Relationship](#))

us (ULT) Stay (UST)

Alternate translation: "Joshua and me"

and Hur (ULT) and Hur (UST)

Hur is a man's name. See how you translated this name in [Exodus 17:10](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

And behold (ULT) Do not forget that (UST)

Behold is used to draw attention to important information that Moses is about to tell them. It is frequently omitted. If your language uses a statement to draw attention to important information, you should consider using it here. Alternate translation: "Remember"

Whoever is a master of words (ULT) so if anyone disputes {with his neighbor while I am gone (UST)

This is an idiom that means that someone has a legal dispute or complaint. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "Whoever has a legal claim" or "Anyone with a law case" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the elders](#)
- [Aaron](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the elders](#)
- [Aaron](#)

ULT

14 And he had said to [the elders](#), "Wait for us in this place until we return to you. And behold! [Aaron](#) and Hur are with you; Whoever is a master of words may come near to them."

UST

14 Moses told [the elders](#), "Stay here until we return. Do not forget that [Aaron](#) and Hur will be with you, so if anyone disputes {with his neighbor while I am gone}, he can go to them {and they will judge it}."

Exodus 24:15

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)

ULT

¹⁵ And [Moses](#) went up to the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain.

UST

¹⁵ Then [Moses](#) went {the rest of the way} up the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain.

Exodus 24:16

the glory of Yahweh (ULT)

Yahweh's glory (UST)

This was the brilliant light of Yahweh's presence. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "the brilliant light showing Yahweh's presence" (See: [Metonymy](#))

six (ULT)

for six (UST)

Alternate translation: "6" (See: [Numbers](#))

on the seventh day (ULT)

On the seventh day (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "on day number 7" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the glory of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [days](#)
- [on...day](#)
- [And...he called](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh's glory](#)
- [Yahweh's glory](#)
- [days](#)
- [On...day](#)
- [Yahweh called](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

¹⁶ And [the glory of Yahweh](#) settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six [days](#). And on the seventh [day he called](#) to [Moses](#) from within the cloud.

UST

¹⁶ [Yahweh's glory](#) came down onto the mountain and the cloud covered it for six [days](#). On the seventh [day, Yahweh called](#) to [Moses](#) from the middle of the cloud.

Exodus 24:17

was like a devouring fire (ULT) like a fire consuming (UST)

This means the glory of Yahweh was very large and seemed to burn brightly, like a fire. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent comparison or express this meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “like a big fire burning” (See: [Simile](#))

in the eyes of the sons of Israel (ULT) To the Israelites...looked (UST)

Their **eyes** represent seeing, and seeing represents their thoughts or judgment about what they saw. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent idiom from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. See how you translated a similar expression in [15:26](#). Alternate translation: “to the Israelites” (See: [Idiom](#))

ULT

¹⁷ And the appearance of [the glory of Yahweh was like a devouring fire](#) on the top of the mountain in the eyes of [the sons of Israel](#).

UST

¹⁷ [To the Israelites, Yahweh's glory](#) looked [like a fire consuming](#) the top of the mountain.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the glory of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [was like a...fire](#)
- [devouring](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [To the Israelites](#)
- [To the Israelites](#)
- [Yahweh's](#)
- [glory](#)
- [like a fire](#)
- [consuming](#)

Exodus 24:18

40 days and 40 nights (ULT) for 40 days and nights (UST)

Alternate translation: "forty days and forty nights" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [days](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [days](#)

ULT

¹⁸ And [Moses](#) entered the middle of the cloud and went up to the mountain. And [Moses](#) was on the mountain 40 [days](#) and 40 nights.

UST

¹⁸ [Moses](#) went into the cloud on top of the mountain and was there for 40 [days](#) and nights.

Exodus 25

Exodus 25 General Notes

Structure:

- v. 1-7: Instructions for gifts the Israelites may give to help build the place where they will worship God
- v. 8-9: Introductory building instructions
- v. 10-22: Instructions for building the Box of the Testimony
- v. 23-30: Instructions for building the table
- v. 31-39: Instructions for building the lampstand
- v. 40: Summary instruction

Special Concepts in this Chapter

- The tent of meeting and Box of the Testimony are introduced in this chapter.
- Translators will need to take special care in translating the concept of atonement.

Potential Translation Issues in this Chapter:

- There are many unfamiliar items in this chapter. Fortunately they are mostly all physical items. Translators will have to try to understand what each item is and translate it into the closest equivalent in their culture. It may be helpful for translators to try to find images depicting some of the items the Israelites were to make.
- There are some biblical weights and measurements that translators may not have encountered before.
- From [verse 11](#) until the end of chapter 30, almost every instruction regarding the construction of the tent of meeting and all the associated items are given with a singular form of “you,” as if Moses himself would make them. However, it is clear and made explicit in [chapter 31](#) that certain skilled craftsmen will receive these instructions from Moses and make these items. In some languages you may need to change from second to third person throughout, following the pattern in [25:10](#). There are a few exceptions which will have their own note. See: [First, Second or Third Person](#) and [Singular Pronouns that refer to Groups](#).

Exodus 25:1

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses

ULT

¹ And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

UST

¹ Yahweh said to Moses,

Exodus 25:2

Speak (ULT)

Tell...that (UST)

The beginning of this verse marks the start of a very long direct quote which continues until the end of [Exo 30:10](#). It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with an opening first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the beginning of a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Speak to the sons of Israel, and they shall take a contribution for me (ULT)

Tell the Israelites that...may give a gift to me (UST)

In some languages you may have to make **and they shall take a contribution for me** a direct quote. Note that this will make it a second-level quotation and you will need to mark it with second-level quotation marking if your language uses them. Alternate translation: "Say to the sons of Israel, 'You shall take a contribution for me.'" (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

whose heart incites him (ULT)

who wants to (UST)

This is an idiom that indicates a person's desire to give an offering. Many languages will have a similar idiom, though the body part may vary. Alternate translation: "who wants to give one" (See: [Idiom](#))

You shall take (ULT)

You will receive (UST)

The word **you** is plural and refers to Moses and the leaders. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [heart](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [who wants to](#)

ULT

² "Speak to [the sons of Israel](#), and they shall take a contribution for me. You shall take my contribution from every man whose [heart](#) incites him.

UST

² "Tell [the Israelites](#) that everyone [who wants to](#) may give a gift to me. You will receive their gifts for me.

Exodus 25:3

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- and silver
- and bronze

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- silver
- bronze

ULT

³ And these are the contributions that you shall receive from them: gold and silver and bronze

UST

³ These are the types of gifts that you should collect from them: gold, silver, bronze,

Exodus 25:4

**and blue and purple and worm of scarlet (ULT)
cloth dyed} blue, {cloth dyed} purple, {cloth
dyed} bright red (UST)**

This could mean: (1) “material that is dyed blue, purple, and scarlet,” probably wool yarn, or (2) “blue, purple and scarlet dye” to dye the linen. The original audience would have known what was meant. This material seems to have been used for embroidery later, so “yarn” or “thread” may be the best understanding. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

**and worm of scarlet (ULT)
cloth dyed} bright red (UST)**

A bright red color for dyeing cloth was extracted from these worms. Alternate translation: “and bright red” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and purple](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [cloth dyed} purple](#)

ULT

⁴ and blue [and purple](#) and worm of scarlet and fine linen and goats' hair

UST

⁴ {cloth dyed} blue, {cloth dyed} purple, {cloth dyed} bright red, fine linen, {cloth made from} goats' hair,

Exodus 25:5**reddened (ULT)****red (UST)**

When animal skins are tanned (processed into usable leather), they become reddish in color. It is not clear whether these hides are dyed red or simply reddened in the tanning process. Alternate translation: "tanned" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

sea cows (ULT)**fine leather hides (UST)**

The meaning of this word is not known. It may refer to some water mammal that has skin that can be made into a high-quality leather. [Sea cows on Wikipedia](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

acacias (ULT)**the hard wood from acacia trees (UST)**

A small tree with spreading foliage and durable wood. [See on Wikipedia](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [rams](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [ram](#)

ULT

⁵ and reddened hides of [rams](#) and hides of sea cows and wood of acacias,

UST

⁵ red [ram](#) skins, fine leather hides, the hard wood from acacia trees,

Exodus 25:6

spices (ULT)

spices...spices (UST)

Here, **spices** are things made from parts of plants that people dry and then grind into a powder to put in oil or food, giving it a particular smell or flavor. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- oil
- anointing
- and for the incense of

Translation Words - UST

- olive} oil
- to mix with the...olive} oil for anointing...the priests
- and...to mix into the sweet-smelling incense

ULT

⁶ oil for the light; spices for the oil of anointing and for the incense of fragrance;

UST

⁶ {olive} oil to burn in the lamps, spices to mix with the {olive} oil for anointing {the priests}, and spices to mix into the sweet-smelling incense,

Exodus 25:7

stones of onyx (ULT) onyx stones and (UST)

An **onyx** is a valuable stone that has layers of white and black, red, or brown. If this stone is unknown to your people, consider translating it by using a word for a familiar stone with a similar pattern, if possible. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and precious stones for (ULT) other expensive stones (UST)

Alternate translation: “and valuable gems for” or “and treasured gems for”

Translation Words - ULT

- [and precious stones for](#)
- [for the ephod](#)
- [and for the breastpiece](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [other expensive stones](#)
- [apron](#)
- [and for putting on the chest pouch that attaches to the apron](#)

ULT

⁷ stones of onyx [and precious stones for settings for the ephod and for the breastpiece.](#)

UST

⁷ onyx stones and [other expensive stones](#) for fastening to the priest's sacred [apron and for putting on the chest pouch that attaches to the apron.](#)

Exodus 25:8

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- a sanctuary

Translation Words - UST

- a holy place

ULT

⁸ And they shall make a sanctuary for me, and I shall live in their midst,

UST

⁸ The people should make a holy place for me so that I can live in it among them.

Exodus 25:9**you (ULT)****you (UST)**

Here, **you** is singular and refers to Moses. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Singular](#))

its utensils (ULT)**the things that they will use inside it (UST)**

Here, **utensils** is a general term that you could translate by a broad term that could encompass all of the things used in the Dwelling, as described in this and the several following chapters. Alternate translation: "its implements"

you shall make it (ULT)**They must make (UST)**

Here, **you** is plural and refers to Moses and the people of Israel. If your language uses different forms of "you" depending on the number of people addressed, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

you shall make it (ULT)**They must make (UST)**

Since Moses does not construct these items himself, you may consider shifting the instructions to the third person if it would be clearer in your language. Alternate translation: "they shall make it" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [my pavilion](#)

ULT

⁹ according to all that I am about to show you—the pattern of [the Dwelling](#) and the pattern of all of its utensils—and thus you shall make it.

UST

⁹ They must make [my pavilion](#) and all the things that they will use inside it precisely according to the plan that I will show you.

Exodus 25:10**acacias (ULT)****acacia (UST)**

These trees, **acacias**, are small trees with spreading foliage and durable wood. See how you translated this in [25:5](#). [See on Wikipedia](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

two cubits and a half...and...one cubit and a half...and...one cubit and a half (ULT)**125 centimeters...75 centimeters...and 75 centimeters (UST)**

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A **cubit** is approximately 46cm. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 115cm ... 69cm ... 69cm (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

and a half...and a half...and a half (ULT)**125 centimeters...75 centimeters...and 75 centimeters (UST)**

A **half** means one part out of two equal parts. (See: [Fractions](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [a box of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a sacred chest from...it](#)

ULT

¹⁰ And they shall make [a box of](#) wood of acacias—its length: two cubits and a half; and its width: one cubit and a half; and its height: one cubit and a half.

UST

¹⁰ Have the people make [a sacred chest from](#) acacia wood. They should make [it](#) 125 centimeters long, 75 centimeters wide and 75 centimeters high.

Exodus 25:11

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- with...gold
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- pure
- with...gold
- a gold

ULT

¹¹ And you shall overlay it {with} pure gold, inside and outside you shall overlay it, and you shall make on it a border of gold around {it}.

UST

¹¹ Cover the chest with pure gold inside and outside and put a gold molding all around it.

Exodus 25:12

And you shall cast four rings of gold for it (ULT)

Make four rings from gold (UST)

Casting rings was a process in which gold was melted, poured into a mold that was in the shape of a ring, and then allowed to cool and harden. If this sort of metal-working process is unknown to your people, you may simply describe it, or use a word meaning “make,” as the UST does. The UST approach is preferred, as the creation process is not in focus here, and it would be cumbersome to include the description in the text. You could use a word meaning “make,” and include the description in a footnote if you are including those and your team feels it is important to understand. Alternate translation: “You shall make four rings of gold by melting the gold and pouring it into molds” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- gold

Translation Words - UST

- gold

ULT

¹² And you shall cast four rings of gold for it and put {them} on its four feet: two rings on its one side and two rings on its second side.

UST

¹² Make four rings from gold, and fasten them to the four legs of the chest. Put two of the rings on each side of the chest.

Exodus 25:13

acacias (ULT)

acacia (UST)

A small tree with spreading foliage and durable wood. See how you translated this in [25:5](#). [See on Wikipedia](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [with} gold](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [with gold](#)

ULT

¹³ And you shall make poles of wood of acacias and overlay them {[with](#)} [gold](#).

UST

¹³ Make two poles from acacia wood, and cover them [with gold](#).

Exodus 25:14

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the box
- the box

Translation Words - UST

- the chest
- the chest

ULT

14 And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of **the box**, to carry **the box** with them.

UST

14 Put the poles into the rings on the sides of **the chest** so that {the Levites} can carry **the chest** by the poles.

Exodus 25:15

The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be removed from it (ULT)

Always leave the poles in the chest's rings; do not take the poles out of the rings (UST)

These two phrases mean similar things. Yahweh is saying the same thing in two different ways to emphasize how important this command is. If saying the same thing twice might be confusing for your readers, you can combine the phrases into one. Alternate translation: "The poles belong in the rings of the box; no one is ever to remove them" (See: [Parallelism](#))

ULT

¹⁵ The poles shall be in the rings of [the ark](#); they shall not be removed from it.

UST

¹⁵ Always leave the poles in the [chest's](#) rings; do not take the poles out of the rings.

The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be removed from it (ULT)

Always leave the poles in the chest's rings; do not take the poles out of the rings (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language, as seen in the UST. (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the ark](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [chest's](#)

Exodus 25:16

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the box
- the Testimony

Translation Words - UST

- the stone slabs...and on which I wrote my commands
- the chest

ULT

¹⁶ And you shall put into the box the Testimony that I give to you.

UST

¹⁶ Put the stone slabs, which I am giving you and on which I wrote my commands, inside the chest.

Exodus 25:17

two cubits and a half...and...a cubit and a half (ULT)

125 centimeters...and 75 centimeters (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A **cubit** is approximately 46cm. For your reference, a more precise conversion to the metric system is: 115 centimeters ... 69 centimeters ... 69 centimeters (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

and a half...and a half (ULT)

125 centimeters...and 75 centimeters (UST)

A **half** means one part out of two equal parts. (See: [Fractions](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [an atonement lid of](#)
- [pure](#)
- [gold](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a lid for the chest](#)
- [pure](#)
- [from...gold](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And you shall make [an atonement lid of pure gold](#)—its length: two cubits and a half; and its width: a cubit and a half.

UST

¹⁷ You must make [a lid for the chest](#) from [pure gold](#). It will be 125 centimeters long and 75 centimeters wide.

Exodus 25:18

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- cherubim
- the atonement lid

Translation Words - UST

- the gold
- the lid
- into the form of...creatures that have wings

ULT

¹⁸ And you shall make two gold cherubim. You shall make them of hammered work from the two ends of the atonement lid.

UST

¹⁸ Hammer the gold at both ends of the lid into the form of two creatures that have wings.

Exodus 25:19

**You shall make the cherubim from the atonement lid on its two ends (ULT)
Make...the winged creatures {from the gold} at each end of the sacred chest's lid (UST)**

This seems to indicate that the cherubim should be formed out of the same piece of gold as the rest of the lid. It may, however, mean that at the end they should be one piece, so the gold should be heated to melting and the lid and cherubim joined together.

Alternate translation: "You shall join the cherubim to the atonement lid on its two ends"

Translation Words - ULT

- cherub
- and...cherub
- the cherubim
- the atonement lid

Translation Words - UST

- one
- and the other
- the winged creatures
- the sacred chest's lid

ULT

¹⁹ And make one cherub from this end and one cherub from this end. You shall make the cherubim from the atonement lid on its two ends.

UST

¹⁹ Make the winged creatures {from the gold} at each end of the sacred chest's lid, one at one end and the other at the other end.

Exodus 25:20

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the cherubim
- the cherubim
- the atonement lid
- the atonement lid (2)
- his brother

Translation Words - UST

- The creature's
- them
- the lid
- the chest's lid (2)
- each other

ULT

²⁰ And the cherubim shall be spreading out their wings upward, covering over the atonement lid with their wings and their faces {shall} each {be} toward his brother. The faces of the cherubim shall be toward the atonement lid.

UST

²⁰ The creature's wings should spread out and reach up to cover the lid. They should face each other, facing the chest's lid that is between them.

Exodus 25:21

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the atonement lid
- the box
- the box
- the Testimony

Translation Words - UST

- the stone slabs
- the top of the chest
- the sacred chest
- the lid

ULT

²¹ And you shall put the atonement lid on the box from above, and you shall put into the box the Testimony that I give to you.

UST

²¹ Put the stone slabs that I am giving you inside the sacred chest. Then place the lid onto the top of the chest.

Exodus 25:22

with you...with you...you (ULT)

with you...to you...to you (UST)

Here, **you** is singular and refers to Moses. If you have been using a plural you for Yahweh's commands which have been to give to others, make sure you use the singular form of "you" here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Singular](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [I will command](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [the atonement lid](#)
- [cherubim](#)
- [the Box of](#)
- [the Box of the Testimony](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [commands...my](#)
- [you must command...Israelites...the...that](#)
- [you must command...Israelites...the...that](#)
- [the...sacred chest's lid](#)
- [winged creatures](#)
- [my...that...the...sacred chest...contains...law tablets](#)
- [my...that...the...sacred chest...contains...law tablets](#)

ULT

²² And I will meet with you there and I will speak with you all that [I will command](#) you for [the sons of Israel](#) from above [the atonement lid](#), from between the two [cherubim](#) which are above [the Box of the Testimony](#).

UST

²² I will set times to talk with you there. I will tell to you all my [commands](#) that [you must command](#) the [Israelites](#) from above the [sacred chest's lid](#), between the two [winged creatures](#) which are above the [sacred chest that contains my law tablets](#).

Exodus 25:23

**acacias. Its length: two cubits, and its width: a cubit, and its height: a cubit and a half (ULT)
acacia...It is to be one meter long, one-half of a meter wide, and three-quarters of a meter high (UST)**

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A **cubit** is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 115 centimeters ... 46 centimeters ... 69 centimeters (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

**and a half (ULT)
and three-quarters of a meter (UST)**

A **half** means one part out of two equal parts. (See: [Fractions](#))

ULT

²³ And you shall make a table from wood of acacias. Its length: two cubits, and its width: a cubit, and its height: a cubit and a half.

UST

²³ Make a table from acacia wood. It is to be one meter long, one-half of a meter wide, and three-quarters of a meter high.

Exodus 25:24

two cubits...one cubit...a cubit and a half

This verse is almost identical to 25:11.

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- with...gold
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- pure
- with...gold
- a gold

ULT

²⁴ And you shall overlay it {with} pure gold, and you shall make for it a border of gold around {it}.

UST

²⁴ Cover the table with pure gold and put a gold molding all around it.

Exodus 25:25

a handbreadth (ULT) eight centimeters wide (UST)

You can convert this length to a measurement system familiar to your people if that is the style of translation that you are using. A **handbreadth** is a measurement of approximately eight centimeters. (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

for it (ULT) it (UST)

Alternate translation: "for the table"

Translation Words - ULT

- gold

Translation Words - UST

- gold

ULT

²⁵ And you shall make a rim for it, a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a border of **gold** around its rim.

UST

²⁵ Make a rim all around it, eight centimeters wide, and make a **gold** molding around the rim.

Exodus 25:26

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- gold

Translation Words - UST

- gold

ULT

²⁶ And you shall make four rings of gold for it and put the rings on the four corners, where its four legs are.

UST

²⁶ Make four rings from gold. Fasten them to the four corners of the table. Each ring should be close to each table leg

Exodus 25:27

to house (ULT) are to hold (UST)

Here, **to house the poles** means that the rings will hold the poles. Since the rings are where the poles belong for use when carrying the table, the rings are figuratively in their **house**. If your language has a similar idiom meaning “place of belonging,” you may use it, or you may translate the idea. Alternate translation: “to be a place for” (See: [Idiom](#))

ULT

²⁷ The rings shall be close to the rim to house the poles to carry the table.

UST

²⁷ near the rim. They are to hold poles for carrying the table.

Exodus 25:28

and the table shall be carried with them (ULT)

Use them to carry the table (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "And you shall carry the table with them" (See: [Active](#) or [Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- with} gold

Translation Words - UST

- with gold

ULT

²⁸ And you shall make the poles {out of} wood of acacias and cover them {with} gold, and the table shall be carried with them.

UST

²⁸ Make two poles from acacia wood and cover them with gold. Use them to carry the table.

Exodus 25:29

its plates and its pans and its pitchers and its bowls (ULT)

dishes, cups, jars, and bowls (UST)

We do not know precisely what these dishes were. It is likely that the **plates** were mostly flat dishes for holding the bread that would be on the table. The **pans** may have been shallow bowls or deep plates for holding incense, or they may have been something more like a ladle or spoon. The **pitchers** probably held wine to be poured into the **bowls** for the drink offerings. You will need to translate using the closest word for each such item in your culture. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

with which it will be poured out (ULT)

for the priests to use to pour out {wine to offer to me (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “from which the priests will pour out” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- from...gold

Translation Words - UST

- pure
- from...gold

ULT

²⁹ And you shall make its plates and its pans and its pitchers and its bowls with which it will be poured out. You shall make them {from} pure gold.

UST

²⁹ Also make dishes, cups, jars, and bowls for the priests to use to pour out {wine to offer to me}. Make them all from pure gold.

Exodus 25:30

the bread of faces (ULT)

the sacred bread (UST)

Here, **faces** figuratively represents the presence of Yahweh. This bread represented the presence of God. Alternate translation: "the bread of the Presence" (See: [Metonymy](#))

before my face (ULT)

to me (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of Yahweh. Alternate translation: "in front of me" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the bread of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred bread](#)

ULT

³⁰ And you shall continually put [the bread of](#) faces on the table before my face.

UST

³⁰ Present [the sacred bread](#) to me on the table at all times.

Exodus 25:31**of hammered work (ULT)****Hammer {one large lump of gold (UST)}**

Alternate translation: "of beaten gold" See how you translated this in [Exodus 25:18](#).

shall be made (ULT)**to make (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "you shall make" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a lampstand of
- The lampstand
- pure
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- a lampstand
- its...its
- pure
- from...gold

ULT

³¹ And you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand—its base and its shaft—shall be made of hammered work. Its cups, its buds, and its blossoms shall be from it.

UST

³¹ Make a lampstand from pure gold. Hammer {one large lump of gold} to make its base and its shaft. Make the cups, with the flower buds and petals {that decorate them}, from that same lump.

Exodus 25:32

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the lampstand
- the lampstand

Translation Words - UST

- the lampstand
- the lampstand

ULT

³² And six branches go out from its sides—three branches of the lampstand from the one side and three branches of the lampstand from the second side.

UST

³² There are to be six branches on the lampstand, three on each side of the shaft.

Exodus 25:33**shaped like almond blossoms (ULT)
that look like almond flowers (UST)**

Almond blossoms are white or pink flowers with five petals. (An almond is a kind of nut.) You may want to include a short description as a footnote or in the text (if that is your translation style) the first time this object is encountered. Alternate translation: “shaped like the five-petaled almond flower” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the lampstand](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the lampstand](#)

ULT

³³ Three cups, shaped like almond blossoms, shall be on the one branch, a bulb, and a blossom. And three cups, shaped like almond blossoms, shall be on the one branch, a bulb, and a blossom—thus for the six branches going out from [the lampstand](#).

UST

³³ Each branch will have three gold cups that look like almond flowers on it. The flowers will have buds and petals. Do this for all six branches of [the lampstand](#).

Exodus 25:34

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- [And on the lampstand](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [On {the shaft of} the lampstand](#)

ULT

³⁴ [And on the lampstand](#) there shall be four cups shaped like almond blossoms {with} its bulbs and its blossoms,

UST

³⁴ [On {the shaft of} the lampstand](#) there are to be four cups that also look like almond blossoms, each one with flower buds and petals.

Exodus 25:35

**And a bulb will be under two of the branches from it, and a bulb will be under two of the branches from it, and a bulb will be under two of the branches from it—for all six branches extending out from the lampstand (ULT)
Make one flower bud beneath every two branches. Attach it to each pair of branches {as if they are growing} from it. Make all six lampstand branches like this (UST)**

Alternate translation: "There must be a leafy base under the first pair of branches—made as one piece with it, and a leafy base under the second pair of branches—also made as one piece with it. In the same way there must be a leafy base under the third pair of branches, made as one piece with it. It must be the same for all six branches extending out from the lampstand."

Translation Words - ULT

- [the lampstand](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [lampstand...like this](#)

ULT

³⁵ And a bulb will be under two of the branches from it, and a bulb will be under two of the branches from it, and a bulb will be under two of the branches from it—for all six branches extending out from [the lampstand](#).

UST

³⁵ Make one flower bud beneath every two branches. Attach it to each pair of branches {as if they are growing} from it. Make all six [lampstand](#) branches [like this](#).

Exodus 25:36

hammered work of (ULT)

Hammer (UST)

Alternate translation: "of beaten gold" See how you translated this in [Exodus 25:18](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- pure
- gold

ULT

³⁶ Their bulbs and their branches from it shall all be one piece of hammered work of [pure gold](#).

UST

³⁶ Hammer all these buds and branches{, along with the shaft,} from one {large lump} of [pure gold](#).

Exodus 25:37

**and it will make light on the side of its face
(ULT)**

so that its light shines all around it (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the location of the lampstand.
Alternate translation: "so they shine light near it" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and it will make light](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [so that its light shines](#)

ULT

³⁷ And you shall make its seven lamps, and it will hold up its lamps, [and it will make light](#) on the side of its face.

UST

³⁷ Make seven lamps and place them on the lampstand [so that its light shines](#) all around it.

Exodus 25:38

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- of...gold

Translation Words - UST

- pure
- from...gold

ULT

³⁸ And {make} its tongs and its trays of pure gold.

UST

³⁸ {Make} tongs from pure gold, {to remove the burned wicks} and trays {in which to put the burned wicks}.

Exodus 25:39

from a talent of (ULT) 33 kilograms of (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A talent weighs about 33 kilograms. (See: [Biblical Weight](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [pure](#)
- [gold](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [pure](#)
- [gold](#)

ULT

³⁹ He shall make it, all these items, from a talent of [pure gold](#).

UST

³⁹ Use 33 kilograms of [pure gold](#) to make the lampstand, the tongs, and the trays.

Exodus 25:40

See and make (ULT)

Make sure to make {these things} (UST)

All the items described in this chapter are included in what Moses is told to **see and make**. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "See and make everything I have described" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

See and make (ULT)

Make sure to make {these things} (UST)

Here, **see** relates to observing or overseeing. Essentially, Yahweh is telling Moses to be careful as he observes the pattern on the mountain and as he sees the craftsmen of Israel working on these items, so that they are made correctly. Alternate translation: "Observe carefully and work exactly" (See: [Metonymy](#))

you are being shown (ULT)

I am giving you (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "I am showing you" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

ULT

⁴⁰ See and make by the pattern that you are being shown on the mountain.

UST

⁴⁰ Make sure to make {these things} according to the instructions that I am giving you here on this mountain.

Exodus 26

Exodus 26 General Notes

- The sacred tent has four layers (from inside to out): linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, and fine leather.
- There are multiple different curtains described using three different Hebrew words: one sort of curtains to make the walls of the tent ([verses 1-13](#)), another to separate the Holy Place and Most Holy Place (also known as Holy of Holies) ([verses 31-34](#)), and another for the entrance of the sacred tent ([verses 36-37](#)). If there are words in your language that would make a distinction between these sorts of hanging cloths, it would be appropriate to make a distinction in your translation.

Structure and Formatting

This chapter is a continuation of the material in the previous chapter. - v. 1-30: Instructions for constructing the exterior of the sacred tent * v. 1-6: Inner covering * v. 7-14: Outer covering layers * v. 15-30: Wooden framework - v. 31-35: Instructions for arranging the interior of the sacred tent - v. 36-37: Instructions for hanging the entrance curtain

Special Concepts in this Chapter

The tent of meeting

This chapter gives specific instructions regarding the building of a tent where Moses would meet Yahweh and the box would be stored. This would eventually become the Dwelling. (See: [tabernacle](#) and [holy, holiness, unholy, sacred](#))

Exodus 26:1

you shall make (ULT) make (UST)

Yahweh is speaking to Moses, so the word **you** is singular. Yahweh probably expected Moses to tell someone else to do the actual work, but Moses would be the one responsible for seeing that the work was done correctly. Alternate translation: “, tell a craftsman to make” (See: [Forms of ‘You’ — Singular](#))

and blue and purple and worm of scarlet (ULT) blue, purple, and red thread (UST)

This could mean: (1) “material that is dyed blue, purple, and scarlet,” probably wool yarn, or (2) “blue, purple and scarlet dye” to dye the linen. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 25:4](#).

and worm of scarlet (ULT) and red thread (UST)

A bright red color for dyeing cloth was extracted from these worms. Alternate translation: “and bright red” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

twisted fine linen (ULT) finely twisted linen (UST)

This was cloth made from fine linen threads that someone twisted together to make a stronger thread. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

a skilled craftsman (ULT) A skilled craftsman must take...and embroider these hangings (UST)

a person who is skilled in making beautiful objects by hand

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)
- [curtains](#)
- [and purple](#)
- [cherubim](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent...it](#)
- [long hangings of](#)
- [purple](#)
- [with designs that represent the winged creatures that are above the chest](#)

ULT

¹ And [the Dwelling](#) you shall make with ten [curtains](#): twisted fine linen and blue [and purple](#) and worm of scarlet; [cherubim](#)—the work of a skilled craftsman you shall make them.

UST

¹ As for [the sacred tent](#), make [it](#) using ten [long hangings of](#) finely twisted linen. A skilled craftsman must take blue, [purple](#), and red thread, and embroider these hangings [with designs that represent the winged creatures that are above the chest](#).

Exodus 26:2

28 cubits...4 cubits (ULT)

14. 5 meters...two meters (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A **cubit** is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 12.9 meters ... 184 centimeters. (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [curtain](#)
- [curtain](#)
- [the curtains](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Make...hanging](#)
- [Make...hanging](#)
- [Make them](#)

ULT

² The length of each [curtain](#) shall be 28 cubits and the width of each [curtain](#) shall be 4 cubits. All of [the curtains](#) shall be one size.

UST

² [Make](#) each [hanging](#) 14. 5 meters long and two meters wide. [Make them](#) all the same size.

Exodus 26:3

Five of the curtains shall be joined each to another and five of the curtains joined each to another (ULT)

Sew five hangings together {as one set}, and sew the other five hangings together {as another set (UST)}

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "Join five of the curtains each to another, and join five of the curtains each to another." (See: [Active or Passive](#))

ULT

³ Five of [the curtains](#) shall be joined each to another and five of [the curtains](#) joined each to another.

UST

³ Sew five [hangings](#) together {as one set}, and sew the other five [hangings](#) together {as another set}.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the curtains](#)
- [the curtains](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [hangings](#)
- [hangings](#)

Exodus 26:4

blue (ULT)

blue cloth (UST)

Alternate translation: "blue yarn" or "blue cloth"

first...second (ULT)

For each...each...For each...each (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

in the set (ULT)

set...them...set (UST)

Alternate translation: "in one set of five curtains"

in the second set (ULT)

For each...set...them...each...set (UST)

Alternate translation: "in the other set of five curtains"

Translation Words - ULT

- [the...curtain](#)
- [the...curtain](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the hanging](#)
- [the hanging](#)

ULT

⁴ And you shall make loops of blue on the edge of the first [curtain](#) from the edge in the set. And you shall do thus along the edge of the end [curtain](#) in the second set.

UST

⁴ For each set, make loops of blue cloth and fasten them along the outer edge of [the hanging](#), at the end of each set.

Exodus 26:5

woman to her sister (ULT) to each other (UST)

This is an idiom meaning “to each other.” If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: “one to the other” (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [on the...curtain](#)
- [the curtain](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [on the edge of the...set](#)
- [the...set](#)

ULT

⁵ You shall make 50 loops [on the](#) first [curtain](#), and you shall make 50 loops on the end of [the curtain](#) which is in the second set. The loops should be opposite woman to her sister.

UST

⁵ Put 50 loops [on the edge of the](#) first [set](#), and 50 loops at the edge of the second [set](#) so that the loops are opposite to each other.

Exodus 26:6

And you shall make 50 clasps of gold and join the curtains woman to her sister (ULT)
Make 50 gold fasteners and fasten both of the sets together (UST)

The clasps fit into the loops (verses 4 and 5) to hold the curtains together.

woman to her sister (ULT)
together (UST)

This is the same idiom as in the previous verse, meaning together. Alternate translation: “to each other” (See: [Idiom](#))

one (ULT)
one unit (UST)

Alternate translation: “as though it were one piece”

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- the curtains
- the Dwelling

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- both of the sets
- the sacred tent

ULT

⁶ And you shall make 50 clasps of gold and join the curtains woman to her sister with the clasps, and the Dwelling will be one.

UST

⁶ Make 50 gold fasteners and fasten both of the sets together with them to make the sacred tent one unit.

Exodus 26:7

for a tent (ULT) a cover (UST)

This refers to an outer tent over the sacred tent. Alternate translation: "for an outer tent"

11 (ULT) 11 (UST)

Alternate translation: "eleven" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [curtains of](#)
- [curtains](#)
- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)
- [from...pieces of cloth](#)
- [from...pieces of cloth](#)

ULT

⁷ And you shall make [curtains of](#) goats' hair for a tent over [the Dwelling](#). You shall make 11 of these [curtains](#).

UST

⁷ Make a cover for [the sacred tent](#) from 11 [pieces of cloth](#) made from goats' hair.

Exodus 26:8**30...4...11 (ULT)****15...two...11 (UST)**

Alternate translation: “thirty ... four ... eleven” (See: [Numbers](#))

30 cubits...4 cubits (ULT)**15 meters...two meters (UST)**

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A **cubit** is approximately 46cm. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 13.8 meter ... 184 centimeters (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [curtain](#)
- [curtain](#)
- [The...curtains](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [pieces of cloth](#)
- [pieces of cloth](#)
- [pieces of cloth](#)

ULT

⁸ The length of each [curtain](#) {shall be} 30 cubits, and the width of each [curtain](#) {shall be} 4 cubits. The 11 [curtains](#) {shall be} the same size.

UST

⁸ Each of the 11 [pieces of cloth](#) will be the same dimensions: 15 meters long and two meters wide.

Exodus 26:9

at the front of the face of the tent (ULT) the front of the cover (UST)

Here, **face** is probably referring to the entrance of the tent. The opening for the protective tent and the sacred tent would have been coordinated so they were in the same place. Alternate translation: "in front of the entrance of the tent" (See: [Metonymy](#))

the tent (ULT) the cover (UST)

As in [verse 7](#), **the tent** refers to the outer tent over the sacred tent. Alternate translation: "the outer tent"

Translation Words - ULT

- [curtains](#)
- [curtains](#)
- [the...curtain](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [pieces of cloth](#)
- [pieces of cloth](#)
- [the...piece of cloth in half to make it double over](#)

ULT

⁹ And you shall join five [curtains](#) to each other and six [curtains](#) to each other. And you shall double over the sixth [curtain](#) at the front of the face of the tent.

UST

⁹ Sew five of these [pieces of cloth](#) together {to make one set}, and sew the other six [pieces of cloth](#) together {to make another set}. Fold the sixth [piece of cloth in half to make it double over](#) the front of the cover.

Exodus 26:10

loops

See how you translated a very similar text in [Exodus 26:4](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the...curtain](#)
- [the curtain](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the one set](#)
- [the other set](#)

ULT

10 And you shall make 50 loops on the edge of the one end [curtain](#) in the joined set and 50 loops on the edge of [the curtain](#) in the second joined set.

UST

10 Make {100 loops of blue cloth,} and fasten 50 of them to the outer edge of [the one set](#) and fasten 50 to the outer edge of [the other set](#).

Exodus 26:11

the clasps (ULT)

the hooks (UST)

The **clasps** fit into the loops to hold the curtains together. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:6](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [bronze](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [bronze](#)

ULT

11 And you shall make 50 clasps of [bronze](#) and put the clasps in the loops and join them and the tent will be one.

UST

11 Make 50 [bronze](#) hooks and fasten the hooks to the loops to connect them, so the cover will be one unit.

Exodus 26:12

the half (ULT)

the half (UST)

A **half** means one part out of two equal parts. (See: [Fractions](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [curtain of](#)
- [curtain](#)
- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [cover](#)
- [piece](#)
- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

¹² And the remaining excess [curtain of](#) the tent, the half [curtain](#) remaining, shall hang over the back of [the Dwelling](#).

UST

¹² Let the extra part of the tent [cover](#), the half [piece](#) that extends beyond the linen cloth, hang over the back side of [the sacred tent](#).

Exodus 26:13

And a cubit...and a cubit (ULT) The...half-meter...The...half-meter (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A **cubit** is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 46 centimeters (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the curtains of](#)
- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [extra...of cover...the part that extends beyond the linen cloth](#)
- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

¹³ And a cubit from this side and a cubit from that side, the excess of the length of [the curtains of](#) the tent shall hang over the sides of [the Dwelling](#) from this side and from that side, to cover it.

UST

¹³ The [extra half-meter of cover](#) on each side, [the part that extends beyond the linen cloth](#), must hang over the two sides of [the sacred tent](#) to protect the sides.

Exodus 26:14

sea-cows (ULT) fine leather (UST)

The meaning of this word, **sea cows**, is not known. It may refer to a water mammal that has skin that can be made into a high-quality leather. [Sea cows on Wikipedia](#) See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 25:5](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

reddened (ULT) red (UST)

When animal skins are tanned (processed into usable leather), they become reddish. It is not clear if these hides are dyed red or simply reddened in the tanning process. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 25:5](#). Alternate translation: "tanned" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [rams](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [rams](#)

ULT

¹⁴ And you shall make a covering for the tent of reddened hides of [rams](#), and a covering of hides of sea-cows above that.

UST

¹⁴ Make another cover to go over the tent from red [rams'](#) skins, and a top cover from fine leather hides.

Exodus 26:15

frames (ULT)

a...framework (UST)

Here, **frames** refers to open wooden structures made to hold the curtains. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

acacias (ULT)

acacia (UST)

The **acacias** are relatively small trees with spreading foliage and durable wood. See how you translated this in [25:5](#). See on [Wikipedia](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

ULT

¹⁵ And you shall make upright frames for the Dwelling from wood of acacias.

UST

¹⁵ Make a standing framework from acacia wood for the sacred tent.

Translation Words - ULT

- [for the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [for the sacred tent](#)

Exodus 26:16

**ten...and...a cubit and a half of a cubit (ULT)
five meters...and three-quarters of a meter
(UST)**

Alternate translation: "10 ... 1.5 cubits" (See: [Numbers](#))

**ten cubits...and...a cubit and a half of a cubit
(ULT)
five meters...and three-quarters of a meter
(UST)**

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A **cubit** is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 4.6 meters ... 69 centimeters. (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

**and a half of (ULT)
and three-quarters of a meter (UST)**

A **half** means one part out of two equal parts. (See: [Fractions](#))

ULT

¹⁶ The length of a frame shall be ten cubits, and the width of one frame shall be a cubit and a half of a cubit.

UST

¹⁶ Each frame is to be five meters long and three-quarters of a meter wide.

Exodus 26:17

There shall be...tenons (ULT)

Make...pegs (UST)

Here, the term **tenons** means a part of the wood sticking out from the rest of the frame so that it can be put into a hole in another object. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

a woman to her sister (ULT)

them together (UST)

This is an idiom meaning “to each other.” See how you translated this in [26:5](#). Alternate translation: “one to the other” (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [for the tabernacle](#)

ULT

¹⁷ There shall be two tenons in each frame for joining a woman to her sister. Thus you shall make all of the frames of [the Dwelling](#).

UST

¹⁷ Make two pegs {at the bottom of} each frame to fasten them together. Make each frame [for the tabernacle](#) this way.

Exodus 26:18

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- for the Dwelling

Translation Words - UST

- of the sacred tent

ULT

¹⁸ And you shall make the frames for the Dwelling: 20 frames for the south side.

UST

¹⁸ Make 20 frames for the south side of the sacred tent.

Exodus 26:19

bases of silver (ULT) silver bases (UST)

The **bases of silver** were silver blocks that had a slot in them to keep the board in place and off the ground.

two bases under one frame for its two tenons, and two bases under one frame for its two tenons (ULT) Put two bases under each frame and fit their two pegs into the bases (UST)

The effect of this is to start a list, and the hearer will assume it should be completed. Try to translate this in the way that a speaker of your language would give instructions that are meant to be carried out on a whole group of objects. This same phrasing occurs again in [verse 21](#) and [verse 25](#). Alternate translation: "two bases under the first frame for its two tenons, and then two bases under the next frame for its two tenons, and so on for all the frames" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- silver

Translation Words - UST

- silver

ULT

¹⁹ And you shall make 40 bases of silver under the 20 frames: two bases under one frame for its two tenons, and two bases under one frame for its two tenons.

UST

¹⁹ Make 40 silver bases to go underneath the 20 frames. Put two bases under each frame and fit their two pegs into the bases.

Exodus 26:20

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the Dwelling

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred tent

ULT

²⁰ And for the second side of the Dwelling, on the north side: 20 frames

UST

²⁰ For the other side—{that is,} the north side—of the sacred tent {make} 20 frames

Exodus 26:21

two bases under one frame and two bases under one frame (ULT)

Put} two bases under each frame (UST)

The effect of this is to start a list, and the hearer will assume it should be completed. Try to translate this in the way that a speaker of your language would give instructions that are meant to be carried out on a whole group of objects. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:19](#). Alternate translation: “two bases under the first frame, and then two bases under the next frame, and so on for all the frames” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- silver

Translation Words - UST

- silver

ULT

²¹ and their 40 silver bases: two bases under one frame and two bases under one frame.

UST

²¹ and 40 silver bases for them. {Put} two bases under each frame.

Exodus 26:22

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

²² And you shall make six frames for the back side of [the Dwelling](#), toward the west.

UST

²² For the rear of [the sacred tent](#), on the west side, make six frames.

Exodus 26:23

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

²³ And you shall make two frames for the back corners of [the Dwelling](#).

UST

²³ Make two frames for the rear corners of [the sacred tent](#).

Exodus 26:24

(There are no notes for this verse.)

ULT

²⁴ And they shall be a pair at the bottom, and they shall be completely together at the top to one ring. Thus it shall be for both; the two shall be the corners.

UST

²⁴ Match them to each other at the bottom and top. Secure the tops together with a ring. Do this for both, making them the corner pieces.

Exodus 26:25

bases: two...under one frame and two bases under one frame (ULT) **two bases under each frame (UST)**

The effect of this is to start a list, and the hearer will assume it should be completed. Try to translate this in the way that a speaker of your language would give instructions that are meant to be carried out on a whole group of objects. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:19](#). Alternate translation: “two bases under the first frame, and then two bases under the next frame, and so on for all the frames” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

and their...bases...bases...bases...bases (ULT) **and...bases...and...bases...bases...bases (UST)**

The **bases** were silver blocks that had a slot in them to keep the frame in place. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:19](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- silver

Translation Words - UST

- silver

ULT

²⁵ And there shall be eight frames and their silver bases, sixteen bases: two bases under one frame and two bases under one frame.

UST

²⁵ Make eight frames and 16 silver bases, two bases under each frame.

Exodus 26:26

crossbars of (ULT)

crossbars (UST)

The **crossbars** are horizontal support beams that give stability to the structure. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

²⁶ And you shall make crossbars of wood of acacias—five for the frames of the one side of [the Dwelling](#),

UST

²⁶ Make crossbars from acacia wood. Make five crossbars for the frames on the {north} side of [the sacred tent](#),

Exodus 26:27

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the Dwelling
- the Dwelling

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred tent
- the sacred tent

ULT

²⁷ and five crossbars for the frames of the second side of the Dwelling, and five crossbars for the frames for the back side of the Dwelling to the west.

UST

²⁷ five crossbars for the frames on the {south} side of the sacred tent, and five crossbars for the frames at the rear of the sacred tent, the west side.

Exodus 26:28

(There are no notes for this verse.)

ULT

²⁸ And the middle crossbar in the center of the frames shall pass through from end to end.

UST

²⁸ The center crossbar, right in the middle of the frames, will reach all the way from edge to edge.

Exodus 26:29

the holders for the crossbars (ULT) for fastening the crossbars to the frames (UST)

Alternate translation: “which will hold the crossbars” or “because they will hold the crossbars”

for the crossbars (ULT) the crossbars (UST)

The **crossbars** are horizontal support beams that give stability to the structure. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:26](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- with gold
- gold
- with gold

Translation Words - UST

- with gold
- from gold
- with gold

ULT

²⁹ And you shall cover the frames **with gold**. And you shall make their rings of **gold**, the holders for the crossbars. And you shall cover the bars **with gold**.

UST

²⁹ Cover the frames and crossbars **with gold**. Make the rings for fastening the crossbars to the frames **from gold**.

Exodus 26:30

you were shown on the mountain (ULT)
I have shown you here on this mountain (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. See UST. (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

³⁰ And you shall set up [the Dwelling](#) according to its plan that you were shown on the mountain.

UST

³⁰ Build [the sacred tent](#) in the way that I have shown you here on this mountain.

Exodus 26:31

General Information:

See how you translated very similar text in [Exodus 26:1](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- a curtain of
- and purple
- cherubim

Translation Words - UST

- a curtain from
- purple
- making designs to represent the winged creatures that are above the sacred chest

ULT

³¹ And you shall make a curtain of blue, and purple and worm of scarlet and of twisted fine linen; the work of a skillful workman, he shall make cherubim.

UST

³¹ Make a curtain from fine linen. A skilled craftsman must embroider it with blue, purple, and red yarn, making designs to represent the winged creatures that are above the sacred chest.

Exodus 26:32

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- pillars of
- with gold
- gold
- silver

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- gold
- posts made from
- silver

ULT

³² And you shall hang it on four pillars of acacia wood covered with gold and their hooks of gold on four bases of silver.

UST

³² Suspend the curtain from gold hooks on four gold-covered posts made from acacia wood. Set each post in a silver base.

Exodus 26:33

the clasps (ULT) fasteners {attached to the roof of the sacred tent (UST)

The **clasps** fit into the loops to hold the curtains together. See how you translated these in [Exodus 26:6](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

the Holy of Holies (ULT) the Most Holy Place (UST)

Here, **Holy of Holies** means extremely or uniquely holy. If this form would not express that this place would become uniquely holy in your language you may need to find another way to express this idea. Alternate translation: “the Most Holy Place” or “the Extraordinarily Holy Place” (See: [Possession](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the curtain
- the curtain
- the curtain
- the Box of
- the Box of...the Testimony
- the Holy
- the Holy of Holies

Translation Words - UST

- the curtain
- the curtain
- The curtain
- the sacred chest
- the sacred chest
- the Holy Place
- the Most Holy Place

ULT

³³ And you shall hang the curtain under the clasps, and you shall bring the Box of the Testimony there inside the curtain. And the curtain shall separate for you between the Holy and the Holy of Holies.

UST

³³ Suspend the curtain from fasteners {attached to the roof of the sacred tent}. Put the sacred chest behind the curtain. The curtain will separate the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place.

Exodus 26:34

in the Holy of Holies (ULT) in the Most Holy Place (UST)

Here, **Holy of Holies** means extremely holy, as in, the holiest of the holy places. If this form would not express that this place would become uniquely holy in your language you may need to find another way to express this idea. See how you translated it in the previous verse. Alternate translation: “in the Most Holy Place” or “in the Extraordinarily Holy Place” (See: [Possession](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the atonement lid](#)
- [the Box of](#)
- [the Box of the Testimony](#)
- [in the Holy of Holies](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the lid](#)
- [the sacred chest](#)
- [the sacred chest](#)
- [in the Most Holy Place](#)

ULT

³⁴ And you shall put [the atonement lid](#) on [the Box of the Testimony in the Holy of Holies](#).

UST

³⁴ Put [the lid](#) on top of [the sacred chest](#) [in the Most Holy Place](#).

Exodus 26:35

the table...the lampstand (ULT) the table...the lampstand...lampstand...the (UST)

This is the **table** Yahweh told Moses how to make in [25:23-30](#) and the **lampstand** he told him how to make in [25:31-39](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the curtain
- the lampstand
- the Dwelling

Translation Words - UST

- the lampstand...lampstand...the
- the curtain
- the sacred tent

ULT

³⁵ And you shall put the table outside [the curtain](#) and [the lampstand](#) opposite the table on the south side of [the Dwelling](#). And put the table on the north side.

UST

³⁵ Put the table and [the lampstand](#) on the other side of [the curtain](#) on opposite sides from each other. Put the [lampstand](#) on the south side of [the sacred tent](#), and put [the](#) table for the sacred bread on the north side.

Exodus 26:36

The table must be on the north side

See how you translated very similar text in [Exodus 26:1](#).

of blue and purple and worm of scarlet (ULT) with blue, purple, and red yarn (UST)

This could mean: (1) "yarn that is dyed blue, purple, and scarlet," probably wool yarn, or (2) "blue, purple, and scarlet dye" to dye the linen. See how you translated this in [Exodus 25:4](#).

and of twisted fine linen (ULT) from fine linen (UST)

This was cloth made from fine linen threads that someone twisted together to make a stronger thread. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

an embroiderer (ULT) A skilled weaver (UST)

Alternate translation: "a person who sews decorative designs into cloth" or "a person who embroiders" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a curtain
- and purple

Translation Words - UST

- a curtain...it
- purple

ULT

³⁶ And you shall make a curtain for the entrance of the tent of blue and purple and worm of scarlet and of twisted fine linen, the work of an embroiderer.

UST

³⁶ Make a curtain as the tent entrance. A skilled weaver must make it from fine linen with blue, purple, and red yarn.

Exodus 26:37

an embroiderer

See how you translated very similar instructions in [verse 32](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- pillars of
- for the curtain
- with gold
- shall be} gold
- bronze

Translation Words - UST

- To hold up this curtain
- posts
- with gold
- gold
- bronze

ULT

³⁷ And you shall make five pillars of acacia wood for the curtain, and you shall overlay them with gold, and their hooks {shall be} gold, and you shall cast five bases of bronze for them.

UST

³⁷ To hold up this curtain, make five posts from acacia wood. Cover them with gold and fasten gold clasps to them. Also make a bronze base for each of these posts.

Exodus 27

Exodus 27 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

This chapter is a continuation of the material in the previous chapter. - v. 1-8: Instructions for constructing the altar
- v. 9-19: Instructions for constructing the outer curtain walls forming the courtyard around the sacred tent - v.
20-21: Instructions for the lampstand

Special Concepts in this Chapter

The tent of meeting

This chapter gives specific instructions regarding building the courtyard area around the Dwelling containing the altar where priests made sacrifices to Yahweh.

Potential Translation Issues

- The verb **make** at the beginning of [verse 9](#) is the only verb from verses 9-18. Some languages may be able to translate a clause chain this long without additional verbs. Others (including English), will need to supply at least a minimum number of verbs (ULT) or quite a few verbs (UST) for naturalness.
- There continue to be a number of possibly unknown terms, still all tangible objects.

Exodus 27:1

five cubits...and five cubits...and three cubits (ULT)

two and a half meters...two and a half meters...and one and a half meters (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A cubit is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 2.3 meters ... 2.3 meters ... 138 centimeters (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the altar of](#)
- [The altar](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [an altar from](#)
- [it](#)

ULT

¹ And you shall make [the altar of](#) wood of acacias, five cubits long and five cubits wide. [The altar](#) shall be square and three cubits high.

UST

¹ Make [an altar from](#) acacia wood. Make [it](#) square: two and a half meters long on each side and one and a half meters tall.

Exodus 27:2

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- its horns
- its horns
- with bronze

Translation Words - UST

- a {projection that looks like a} horn
- them
- with bronze

ULT

² And you shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns will be part of it. And you shall overlay it with bronze.

UST

² Make a {projection that looks like a} horn on each of the top corners. Make them from the same block of wood as the altar. Cover the whole altar with bronze.

Exodus 27:3

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- with bronze

Translation Words - UST

- from bronze

ULT

³ And you shall make its pots for fatty ashes and its shovels and its basins and its meat forks and its trays. You shall make all its utensils with bronze.

UST

³ Make all its implements from bronze. Make pans to collect the ashes from burning the fat, shovels {for cleaning out the ashes}, basins, forks {for turning the meat as it cooks}, and buckets {for carrying hot coals}.

Exodus 27:4

a grate (ULT)
grating {to hold the wood and burning coals (UST)

The **grate** is a frame of crossed metal bars for holding wood when burning.

And you shall make four rings of bronze on the network, on its four corners (ULT)
Fasten a bronze ring to each of the four corners of the grate (UST)

You may want to refer back to several other passages regarding making rings for carrying poles when translating this verse. See [Exo 25:12](#), [Exo 25:26](#), and [Exo 25:27](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [bronze](#)
- [bronze](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a bronze lattice](#)
- [a bronze](#)

ULT

⁴ And you shall make a grate for it, a work of a network of [bronze](#). And you shall make four rings of [bronze](#) on the network, on its four corners.

UST

⁴ Make [a bronze lattice](#) grating {to hold the wood and burning coals}. Fasten [a bronze](#) ring to each of the four corners of the grate.

Exodus 27:5

And you shall put it under the ledge of the altar below, and the network shall be up to the middle of the altar (ULT)

Put the grating under the rim that is around the altar. Make it so that it is inside the altar, halfway down (UST)

The grate was placed inside the altar. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the altar
- the altar

Translation Words - UST

- the rim that is around the altar
- inside the altar, halfway down

ULT

⁵ And you shall put it under the ledge of [the altar](#) below, and the network shall be up to the middle of [the altar](#).

UST

⁵ Put the grating under [the rim that is around the altar](#). Make it so that it is [inside the altar, halfway down](#).

Exodus 27:6

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- for the altar
- with bronze

Translation Words - UST

- for {carrying} the altar
- with bronze

ULT

⁶ And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of wood of acacias, and you shall overlay them with bronze.

UST

⁶ Make poles for {carrying} the altar from acacia wood and cover them with bronze.

Exodus 27:7

And its poles shall be put (ULT)

Put the poles (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "And you shall put its poles" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the altar](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the altar](#)

ULT

⁷ And its poles shall be put into the rings, and the poles shall be on the two sides of [the altar](#) when carrying it.

UST

⁷ Put the poles through the rings on each side of [the altar](#) to carry it.

Exodus 27:8

he showed (ULT)

I am giving (UST)

Here, **he** refers to Yahweh in the third person. If it would be unnatural in your language for someone to refer to himself in this way, you may need to change it. Alternate translation: "I showed" or "Yahweh showed" (See: [First](#), [Second](#) or [Third Person](#))

they shall do (ULT)

They must make it (UST)

Here, **they** refers to whoever will make all these items. It is an indication that even though Yahweh has been speaking to Moses in the singular throughout, these instructions are meant to be conveyed to Israelite craftsmen. See 25:intro for more. (See: [First](#), [Second](#) or [Third Person](#))

ULT

⁸ You shall make it hollow, of planks.
Just as he showed you on the mountain,
so they shall do.

UST

⁸ Make the altar from boards and make it hollow in the middle. They must make it according to these instructions that I am giving you here on this mountain.

Exodus 27:9

fine twisted linen (ULT) of fine linen (UST)

This was cloth made from fine linen threads that someone twisted together to make a stronger thread. See how you translated this in [Exodus 25:4](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

100 cubits (ULT) 50 meters (UST)

You can convert this length to a measurement system familiar to your people if that is the style of translation that you are using. A cubit is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 46 meters (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the courtyard of](#)
- [the courtyard](#)
- [the Dwelling](#)
- [There shall be curtains of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a courtyard](#)
- [a courtyard](#)
- [around the sacred tent](#)
- [with more curtains...of curtain](#)

ULT

⁹ And you shall make [the courtyard of the Dwelling](#). [There shall be curtains of fine twisted linen](#) on the south side of [the courtyard](#); one side shall be 100 cubits long,

UST

⁹ Also make [a courtyard around the sacred tent with more curtains](#) of fine linen. For the south side, hang 50 meters [of curtain](#)

Exodus 27:10

with its 20 pillars and their 20 bronze bases (ULT)

from 20 {bronze} posts. {Make} 20 bronze bases for the posts (UST)

Here, **bronze** may refer to both the **pillars** and the **bases**, or just to the **bases**. The pillars inside the tent were of wood overlaid with gold; these may be wood overlaid with bronze.

Translation Words - ULT

- with its...pillars
- the pillars
- bronze
- silver

Translation Words - UST

- from...posts
- on them
- bronze
- silver

ULT

¹⁰ with its 20 pillars and their 20 bronze bases, the hooks of the pillars and their rings of silver.

UST

¹⁰ from 20 {bronze} posts. {Make} 20 bronze bases for the posts and hooks on them and silver connectors.

Exodus 27:11

there must be hangings one hundred cubits long

See how you translated many similar words in [Exodus 27:9-10](#).

100 (ULT) 50 meters of (UST)

Here, “cubits” is omitted because it is understood as a repetition of the instructions in verse 9. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. Alternate translation: “100 cubits” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

100 (ULT) 50 meters of (UST)

You can convert this length to a measurement system familiar to your people if that is the style of translation that you are using. A cubit is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 46 meters (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the curtains](#)
- [and its...pillars](#)
- [the pillars](#)
- [bronze](#)
- [silver](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [hang...curtains](#)
- [from...posts, with](#)
- [from...posts, with](#)
- [bronze](#)
- [silver](#)

ULT

¹¹ And thus for the north side, the length of [the curtains](#): 100 long, [and its](#) 20 [pillars](#), 20 bases of [bronze](#), hooks of [the pillars](#), and rings of [silver](#).

UST

¹¹ And likewise for the north side {of the courtyard: [hang](#)} 50 meters of [curtains](#) from 20 [posts](#), [with](#) their 20 [bronze](#) bases, hooks, and [silver](#) connectors.

Exodus 27:12

50 cubits long (ULT) 25 meters long (UST)

You can convert this length to a measurement system familiar to your people if that is the style of translation that you are using. A cubit is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 23 meters (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the courtyard](#)
- [shall have a curtain](#)
- [with its...pillars](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Make} a curtain](#)
- [of the courtyard](#)
- [Support them} with...posts](#)

ULT

¹² And the width of [the courtyard](#), on the west side, [shall have a curtain](#) 50 cubits long [with its ten pillars](#) and ten bases.

UST

¹² [{Make} a curtain](#) 25 meters long along the west side [of the courtyard](#). [{Support them} with ten posts](#), with a base under each post.

Exodus 27:13

50 cubits (ULT)
25 meters (UST)

You can convert this length to a measurement system familiar to your people if that is the style of translation that you are using. A cubit is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 23 meters (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the courtyard](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the courtyard](#)

ULT

¹³ And the width of [the courtyard](#), on the east side, shall be 50 cubits.

UST

¹³ On the east side [the courtyard](#) must also be 25 meters wide.

Exodus 27:14

fifteen (ULT) seven and a half (UST)

You can convert this length to a measurement system familiar to your people if that is the style of translation that you are using. A cubit is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 6.9 meters (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

with} their...pillars (ULT) with...posts (UST)

The **pillars** were strong pieces of wood set upright and used as supports. See how you translated these in [Exodus 27:10](#).

and their..bases (ULT) and bases (UST)

The **bases** were metal blocks that had a slot in them to keep the board in place. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:19](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [The curtains...shall be](#)
- [with} their...pillars](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Make} a curtain](#)
- [with...posts](#)

ULT

¹⁴ [The curtains](#) for the side {[shall be](#)} fifteen cubits {[with} their](#) three [pillars](#) and their three bases.

UST

¹⁴ {[Make} a curtain](#) seven and a half meters long for one side {of the entrance}, with three [posts](#) and bases.

Exodus 27:15

fifteen (ULT) seven and a half meters long (UST)

You can convert this length to a measurement system familiar to your people if that is the style of translation that you are using. A cubit is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 6.9 meters. (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

with their...pillars (ULT) also with...posts (UST)

These **posts** were strong pieces of wood set upright and used as supports. See how you translated these in [Exodus 27:10](#).

and their..bases (ULT) and bases (UST)

The **bases** were metal blocks that had a slot in them to keep the board in place. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:19](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- The curtains...shall be
- with their..pillars

Translation Words - UST

- Make} another curtain
- also with...posts

ULT

¹⁵ The curtains for the second side shall be fifteen with their three pillars and their three bases.

UST

¹⁵ {Make} another curtain seven and a half meters long for the other side {of the entrance}, also with three posts and bases.

Exodus 27:16

blue, purple, and scarlet material and fine twined linen

See how you translated a nearly identical passage in [26:36](#).

20 cubits wide (ULT) ten meters wide (UST)

You can convert this length to a measurement system familiar to your people if that is the style of translation that you are using. A cubit is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 9.2m (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the gate of](#)
- [the courtyard](#)
- [shall be a curtain](#)
- [and purple](#)
- [with its...pillars](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Make...for the...entrance](#)
- [a curtain](#)
- [courtyard](#)
- [purple](#)
- [Hang it} from...posts](#)

ULT

¹⁶ [And the gate of the courtyard shall be a curtain](#) 20 cubits wide of blue [and purple](#) and worm of scarlet and of twisted fine linen—the work of an embroiderer—[with its](#) four [pillars](#) and its four bases.

UST

¹⁶ [{Make} a curtain](#) from finely twined linen ten meters wide [for the courtyard entrance](#). A skilled weaver must embroider it with blue, [purple](#), and red yarn. [{Hang it} from](#) four [posts](#), each one with a base under it.

Exodus 27:17

shall be filleted (ULT)

Make...the ends...rounded...ends (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Among other options not so relevant here, Wiktionary suggests that a **fillet** could be a “thin strip of any material, in various technical uses,” “thin featureless molding used as separation between broader decorative moldings,” or a rounded corner. Alternate translation: “you shall fillet” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the pillars of](#)
- [the courtyard](#)
- [with silver](#)
- [silver](#)
- [bronze](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [of posts](#)
- [the courtyard](#)
- [have...silver](#)
- [from silver](#)
- [from bronze](#)

ULT

¹⁷ All [the pillars of the courtyard](#) shall be filleted around [with silver](#), and their [silver](#) hooks, and their bases of [bronze](#).

UST

¹⁷ Make all the ends [of posts](#) around [the courtyard](#) have rounded [silver](#) ends. Make the clasps [from silver](#), and the bases [from bronze](#).

Exodus 27:18

**shall be 100 cubits...50...five cubits (ULT)
50 meters...and 25 meters...and {the curtains
that enclose it} two and a half meters (UST)**

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A cubit is approximately 46 centimeters. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 46 meters ... 23 meters ... 2.3 meters. (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

**50 (ULT)
and 25 meters (UST)**

Here, “cubits” is omitted because it is understood as a repetition of the instructions in verse 9. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. Alternate translation: “50 cubits” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the courtyard](#)
- [bronze](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the whole courtyard](#)
- [from bronze](#)

ULT

¹⁸ The length of [the courtyard](#) shall be 100 cubits, and the width 50, and the height five cubits with fine twined linen, and bases of [bronze](#).

UST

¹⁸ Make [the whole courtyard](#), {from the east entrance to the west end}, 50 meters long and 25 meters wide, and {the curtains that enclose it} two and a half meters high. Make all the curtains from fine linen, and all the bases {under the posts} [from bronze](#).

Exodus 27:19

its tent pegs...the pegs of (ULT) the tent pegs to support the sacred tent...and the curtains that form the courtyard (UST)

The **tent pegs** are strong, sharp pieces of metal driven into the ground and used to secure the corners of a tent to the ground or to secure ropes in order to create tension to stabilize something standing upright. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)
- [the courtyard](#)
- [shall be bronze](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent {and in the courtyard}](#)
- [and the curtains that form the courtyard](#)
- [from bronze](#)

ULT

¹⁹ All of the equipment of [the Dwelling](#) for all of its service, and all of its tent pegs and all of the pegs of [the courtyard shall be bronze](#).

UST

¹⁹ Make all the things {that are not made of gold} that are for use inside [the sacred tent {and in the courtyard}](#), and all the tent pegs to support the sacred tent [and the curtains that form the courtyard from bronze](#).

Exodus 27:20

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- shall command
- the sons of
- Israel
- oil of
- olive

Translation Words - UST

- Command
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- oil...from
- olives

ULT

²⁰ And you shall command the sons of Israel and they shall bring pure pressed oil of olive to you for the lamp, to cause the lamp to burn continually.

UST

²⁰ Command the Israelites to bring you purified oil squeezed from olives, so that the lamp is always burning.

Exodus 27:21

is the testimony (ULT) the sacred chest is (UST)

The **testimony** refers to the chest that contains the sacred slabs of stone on which Yahweh had written his commandments. If it would be more clear to your readers you may include a reference to the chest. Alternate translation: "is the Box of the Testimony" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

shall arrange it (ULT) must take care to keep the lamps burning every night (UST)

Here, **it** refers to the lamp mentioned in the previous verse and **arrange** means to set it up for burning, and light it. Alternate translation: "shall set up the lampstand and light it"

before the face of Yahweh (ULT) for Yahweh (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of Yahweh. Alternate translation: "in front of me" (See: [Metonymy](#))

This is an eternal statute throughout the generations of the sons of Israel (ULT) The Israelites must obey this regulation throughout all future generations (UST)

See how you translated a similar statement in [12:14](#)

Translation Words - ULT

- [In the tent of meeting](#)
- [the curtain](#)
- [is the testimony](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [and his sons](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [an eternal](#)
- [throughout the generations of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [In...the sacred tent](#)
- [the curtain](#)
- [the sacred chest is](#)
- [Aaron](#)

ULT

²¹ [In the tent of meeting](#), outside [the curtain](#) inside of which [is the testimony](#), [Aaron and his sons](#) shall arrange it before the face of [Yahweh](#), from evening to morning. This is [an eternal statute throughout the generations of the sons of Israel](#).

UST

²¹ In the outer part of [the sacred tent](#), outside [the curtain](#) where [the sacred chest is](#), [Aaron and his sons](#) must take care to keep the lamps burning every night from evening to morning for [Yahweh](#). [The Israelites](#) must obey this regulation [throughout all future generations](#).

- and his sons
- The Israelites
- Yahweh
- The Israelites
- throughout all future generations
- throughout all future generations

Exodus 28

Exodus 28 General Notes

Structure

- v. 1: Introduction - Aaron and sons will become priests
- v. 2-5: General introduction of sacred clothing
- v. 6-14: Instructions for the ephod
 - v. 9-14: Instructions regarding stones on ephod
- v. 15-28: Instructions for the breastpiece
 - v. 17-21: Instructions regarding stones on breastpiece
 - v. 22-28: Instructions for mounting the breastpiece on the ephod
- v. 29-30: Aaron should wear things over his heart
- v. 31-35: Instructions for making the robe with bells and pomegranates
- v. 36-38: Instructions regarding the turban
- v. 39-41: Closing general instructions regarding clothing
- v. 42-43: Instructions on making and wearing undergarments
- v. 43b: Closing statement

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Holy garments

Because Yahweh is holy, only the priests could approach him, and when they did they had to be wearing specially made clothing. (See: [priest](#), [priesthood](#) and [holy](#), [holiness](#), [unholy](#), [sacred](#))

Potential Translation Issues

- Verses 17-20 list 12 kinds of stone. Scholars are not sure which kinds of stones the Hebrew words refer to. Some translations list different stones. The UST gives the probable color of the gemstones. Translators may use names of familiar gem stones.

Exodus 28:1

And you (ULT) your (UST)

Here, **you** refers to Moses; in this case, it is used to highlight that he is the person who must do the next thing. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Singular](#))

Aaron...your brother (ULT) older brother...Aaron (UST)

Aaron is older than Moses. If your language uses a different term for the sibling relationship based on gender and age order, choose the appropriate one. (See: [Kinship](#))

and Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar (ULT) Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar (UST)

These are men's names. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- Aaron
- Aaron
- your brother
- his sons
- the sons of
- the sons of (2)
- Israel
- to be priests
- Eleazar

Translation Words - UST

- older brother
- Aaron
- Aaron
- Aaron
- his sons
- the Israelites
- his sons (2)
- Eleazar
- the Israelites
- so they can be my priests

ULT

¹ And you, bring [Aaron your brother](#), and [his sons](#) with him near to you from among [the sons of Israel to be priests](#) for me—[Aaron](#) and Nadab and Abihu, [Eleazar](#) and Ithamar, [the sons of Aaron!](#)

UST

¹ Have your [older brother Aaron](#) and [his sons](#), Nadab, Abihu, [Eleazar](#), and Ithamar, come close to you and away from [the Israelites](#), [so they can be my priests](#).

Exodus 28:2

clothes of holiness (ULT)

holy vestments (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. Alternate translation: "holy clothes" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- for Aaron
- your brother
- clothes of
- holiness
- for glory
- and for splendor

Translation Words - UST

- holy
- vestments
- your brother
- for...Aaron
- so {he reflects my} honor
- and beauty

ULT

² And you shall make for Aaron your brother clothes of holiness for glory and for splendor.

UST

² Make holy vestments for your brother Aaron, so {he reflects my} honor and beauty.

Exodus 28:3

And you (ULT)**Talk (UST)**

Here, **you** refers to Moses; in this case, it is used to highlight that he is the person who must do the next thing. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Singular](#))

to all of the wise of heart, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom (ULT)**to all the skilled artisans, those whom I have made excellent at crafting things (UST)**

There is a little bit of parallelism here. Yahweh is clarifying who causes someone to be **wise of heart**. You could translate this in a more causative way if that would make more sense. Alternate translation: “to anyone whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, making them wise of heart” (See: [Parallelism](#))

to all of the wise of heart, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom (ULT)
to all the skilled artisans, those whom I have made excellent at crafting things (UST)

Here, **heart** and **spirit** are both referring to things innately possessed by a person that is, traits of a person. **Wisdom** refers to skill or talent with crafting in this case. Together **wise of heart** and **filled with the spirit of wisdom** both essentially mean “a talented craftsman.” If it would be more clear to your readers, you may consider making some of this more explicit. Alternate translation: “to every talented craftsman, those whom I have made skilled in their work” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the wise of](#)
- [wisdom](#)
- [heart](#)
- [with the spirit of](#)
- [the clothes of](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [to set him apart](#)
- [to be a priest](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the skilled artisans](#)
- [excellent at crafting things](#)
- [the skilled artisans](#)
- [excellent at crafting things](#)
- [vestments for...to wear](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [when you dedicate him](#)
- [to become a priest](#)

ULT

³ And you, you shall speak to all of [the wise of heart](#), whom I have filled [with the spirit of wisdom](#), and they shall make [the clothes of Aaron to set him apart to be a priest](#) for me.

UST

³ Talk to all [the skilled artisans](#), those whom I have made [excellent at crafting things](#). Tell them to make [vestments for Aaron to wear when you dedicate him to become a priest](#) to serve me.

Exodus 28:4

and a tunic of woven work (ULT) an embroidered tunic (UST)

We do not know what word translated **of woven work** means, as it only occurs here and in [verse 39](#) as a verb. Alternate translation: “and a checkered tunic” or “an embroidered garment”

a turban (ULT) a turban (UST)

This is a head covering made from cloth wrapped around the head several times. You may translate it using a word commonly used for a similar item in your culture. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and a sash (ULT) and a waistband (UST)

The **sash** is a piece of cloth that people wear around their waist or across their chest. You may translate it with a word commonly used for a similar item in your culture. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

clothes of holiness (ULT) these holy vestments (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. See how you translated this in [28:2](#). (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a breastpiece
- and an ephod
- and a robe
- and a tunic of
- they...to be
- holiness
- your brother
- for...Aaron
- and for his sons...priests

Translation Words - UST

- a sacred pouch {for Aaron to wear over his breast}
- a sacred apron
- a robe
- an embroidered tunic
- these holy vestments
- so that...Aaron
- your older brother
- and his sons
- can {wear them as they} serve me by doing the work that priests do

ULT

⁴ And these are the clothes that they shall make: a breastpiece and an ephod and a robe and a tunic of woven work, a turban and a sash. And they shall make clothes of holiness for your brother Aaron and for his sons to be priests for me.

UST

⁴ They should make these vestments: a sacred pouch {for Aaron to wear over his breast}, a sacred apron, a robe, an embroidered tunic, a turban, and a waistband. They must make these holy vestments so that your older brother Aaron and his sons can {wear them as they} serve me by doing the work that priests do.

Exodus 28:5

and blue and purple and worm of scarlet (ULT) blue, purple, and red thread (UST)

This could mean: (1) “material that is dyed blue, purple, and scarlet,” probably wool yarn, or (2) “blue, purple and scarlet dye” to dye the linen. The original audience would have known what was meant. This material seems to have been used for embroidery later, so “yarn” or “thread” may be the best understanding. See how you translated this in 25:4 (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

worm of scarlet (ULT) and red thread (UST)

A bright red color for dying cloth was extracted from these worms. Alternate translation: “and bright red” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- purple

Translation Words - UST

- and gold
- purple

ULT

⁵ And they shall take gold and blue and purple and worm of scarlet and fine linen.

UST

⁵ The skilled workmen should receive fine linen and gold, blue, purple, and red thread {to make the vestments}.

Exodus 28:6

and twisted fine linen (ULT) from finely twisted linen (UST)

This was cloth made from fine linen threads that someone twisted together to make a stronger thread. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:36](#). Alternate translation: “fine twined linen” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

a skillful craftsman (ULT) They must skillfully embroider it (UST)

The description **skillful craftsman** refers to a person who can make beautiful objects by hand.

Translation Words - ULT

- the ephod
- from gold
- and purple

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred apron
- purple
- and with {fine} gold {thread}

ULT

⁶ And they shall make the ephod from gold, blue, and purple, worm of scarlet, and twisted fine linen—the work of a skillful craftsman.

UST

⁶ The skilled workmen must make the sacred apron from finely twisted linen. They must skillfully embroider it with blue, purple, and red thread, and with {fine} gold {thread}.

Exodus 28:7

It shall have two shoulder pieces joining to its two ends; so it shall be joined (ULT)

It must have two shoulder straps attached on both edges to connect it together (UST)

This likely meant creating some sort of fastening up by the shoulders to attach the front of the ephod to its back. Alternate translation: "They shall make it so that the front and back attach to each other at the shoulders"

**so it shall be joined (ULT)
to connect it together (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "join it together that way" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

ULT

⁷ It shall have two shoulder pieces joining to its two ends; so it shall be joined.

UST

⁷ It must have two shoulder straps attached on both edges to connect it together.

Exodus 28:8

which is on it...of like workmanship, from it (ULT)
that matches...from the same piece of cloth as the apron...Sew it onto the apron (UST)

This is saying that the sash should be attached to the ephod, perhaps cut from the same material used to make the rest of the ephod.

Translation Words - ULT

- the ephod
- of gold
- and purple

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred apron
- purple
- and {fine} gold {thread}

ULT

⁸ And the skillfully-crafted sash of the ephod which is on it shall be of like workmanship, from it: of gold, blue and purple and worm of scarlet and fine twined linen.

UST

⁸ Make a carefully woven belt that matches the sacred apron. Make it from the same piece of cloth as the apron. (That cloth was finely twisted linen with {skillfully embroidered} blue, purple, red thread, and {fine} gold {thread}.) Sew it onto the apron.

Exodus 28:9

stones of onyx (ULT)

onyx stones (UST)

These **stones of onyx** are valuable stones that have layers of white and black, red, or brown. See how you translated this in [Exodus 25:7](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

two (ULT)

two (UST)

Alternate translation: "2" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the names of](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Jacob's {12} sons](#)
- [Jacob's...12} sons](#)
- [names](#)

ULT

⁹ And you shall take two stones of onyx and you shall engrave on them [the names of the sons of Israel](#),

UST

⁹ Take two onyx stones and carve [Jacob's {12} sons' names](#) on them.

Exodus 28:10

six of...the six (ULT)

Carve...six...Carve} six (UST)

Alternate translation: "6 of ... the 6" (See: [Numbers](#))

according to their genealogies (ULT)
the names} in the order in which Jacob's sons
were born (UST)

Alternate translation: "according to their birth order"

Translation Words - ULT

- [their names](#)
- [names](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [names](#)
- [names](#)

ULT

¹⁰ six of [their names](#) on one stone and the six remaining [names](#) on the second stone, according to their genealogies.

UST

¹⁰ {Carve the names} in the order in which Jacob's sons were born. {Carve} six [names](#) on one stone and the other six [names](#) on the other stone.

Exodus 28:11**the engravings of a signet (ULT)
like he is making a signet ring (UST)**

Alternate translation: "in the same way a person engraves on a seal"

**a craftsman of stone (ULT)
A gem cutter (UST)**

A **craftsman of stone** is a person who cuts designs into stones.

Alternate translation: "a detailed stone cutter" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

**a signet (ULT)
like he is making a signet ring (UST)**

This is an engraved stone often set into a ring and used to stamp a design into a wax seal to authenticate an official document. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

**ornamental settings of (ULT)
Then he should mount...in decorative gold settings (UST)**

These are pieces of metal that hold the stones onto the ephod. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the names of](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [gold](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [these names](#)
- [these names](#)
- [these names](#)
- [Then he should mount...in decorative gold settings](#)

ULT

11 You shall engrave the two stones with [the names of the sons of Israel](#)—the work of a craftsman of stone, the engravings of a signet. You shall make them surrounded with ornamental settings of [gold](#).

UST

11 A gem cutter should carve [these names](#) in the two stones like he is making a signet ring. [Then he should mount](#) the stones [in decorative gold settings](#).

Exodus 28:12

reminder...for a reminder (ULT) the memorial stones...will memorialize (UST)

The text does not specify if Yahweh or Aaron or someone else is the one being reminded by the stones. It also does not specify exactly what the reminder is of. Try to maintain this ambiguity if possible in your translation.

before the face of (ULT) whenever he serves (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of Yahweh. Alternate translation: "in the presence of" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the ephod
- for the sons of
- Israel
- Aaron
- their names
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred apron
- Aaron
- the names of the 12 tribes of Israel...them
- the names of the 12 tribes of Israel...them
- the names of the 12 tribes of Israel...them
- Yahweh

ULT

¹² And you shall put the two stones on the shoulder pieces of [the ephod](#) as stones of reminder [for the sons of Israel](#). And [Aaron](#) shall carry [their names](#) before the face of [Yahweh](#) on his two shoulders for a reminder.

UST

¹² Fasten the memorial stones onto the shoulder straps of [the sacred apron](#). Then [Aaron](#) will memorialize [the names of the 12 tribes of Israel](#) by carrying [them](#) on his shoulders whenever he serves [Yahweh](#).

Exodus 28:13

ornamental settings of (ULT) the decorative settings for the stones from (UST)

The **ornamental settings** are pieces of precious metal that surround the sides of hold each stone to hold it onto the ephod. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:11](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [gold](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [gold](#)

ULT

¹³ And you shall make ornamental settings of [gold](#)

UST

¹³ Make the decorative settings for the stones from [gold](#).

Exodus 28:14

and two twisted chains of pure gold: you shall make them as a work of rope (ULT)

Make two chains of purified gold by braiding gold like cords (UST)

Alternate translation: "and you shall make two chains of pure gold that are braided like cords"

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- purified
- gold

ULT

¹⁴ and two twisted chains of **pure gold**: you shall make them as a work of rope, and you shall attach the chains of the rope to the ornamental settings.

UST

¹⁴ Make two chains of **purified gold** by braiding gold like cords and fasten the cord chains to the decorative settings.

Exodus 28:15

**the work of a skillful craftsman—you shall make it like the work of the ephod (ULT)
Make it of the same materials as the sacred apron, and skillfully embroider it in the same way (UST)**

Alternate translation: “a skillful workman will make it like the ephod”

Translation Words - ULT

- a breastpiece of
- judgment
- the ephod
- from gold
- and purple

Translation Words - UST

- a sacred pouch for
- decision-making
- as the sacred apron
- with gold
- purple

ULT

¹⁵ And you shall make a breastpiece of judgment—the work of a skillful craftsman—you shall make it like the work of the ephod; you shall make it from gold, blue, and purple, and worm of scarlet, and twisted fine linen.

UST

¹⁵ Make a sacred pouch for decision-making. Make it of the same materials as the sacred apron, and skillfully embroider it in the same way with gold, blue, purple, and red finely twisted linen.

Exodus 28:16

a span...and...a span (ULT)

23 centimeters...and 23 centimeters (UST)

You can convert this length to a measurement system familiar to your people if that is the style of translation that you are using. A span is approximately 23 centimeters. (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

It shall be square, folded double (ULT)

Fold the material double so that it is a square (UST)

Alternate translation: "Fold it in half so it will be square"

ULT

¹⁶ It shall be square, folded double; its length: a span; and its width: a span.

UST

¹⁶ Fold the material double so that it is a square 23 centimeters long and 23 centimeters wide.

Exodus 28:17

General Information:

Twelve kinds of stones are listed in the next four verses. Scholars are not sure which kinds of stones the Hebrew words refer to. Some translations list different stones. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

a ruby, a topaz, and a garnet (ULT)

a red ruby, a yellow topaz, and a green emerald (UST)

These are precious stones. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [precious stone](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [of valuable stones](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And you shall set in it settings of [precious stone](#)—four stone rows. The first row shall be a row with a ruby, a topaz, and a garnet.

UST

¹⁷ Fasten four rows of [valuable stones](#) onto the pouch. In the first row, put a red ruby, a yellow topaz, and a green emerald.

Exodus 28:18

And the second row (ULT)

Put...in the second row (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "And row 2:" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond (ULT) a green turquoise, a blue sapphire, and a clear diamond (UST)

These are precious stones. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

a sapphire (ULT)

a blue sapphire (UST)

This is a gemstone that is blue in color. See how you translated this in [Exodus 24:10](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

ULT

¹⁸ And the second row: an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

UST

¹⁸ Put a green turquoise, a blue sapphire, and a clear diamond in the second row.

Exodus 28:19

And the third row (ULT)

Put...in the third row (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "And row 3:" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst (ULT)
a red jacinth, a white agate, and a purple amethyst (UST)

These are precious stones (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

ULT

¹⁹ And the third row: a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst.

UST

¹⁹ Put a red jacinth, a white agate, and a purple amethyst in the third row.

Exodus 28:20**And the fourth row (ULT)****Put...in the fourth row (UST)**

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "And row 4:" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper (ULT)
a yellow beryl, an onyx, and a green jasper (UST)

These are precious stones. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and an onyx (ULT)**an onyx (UST)**

An **onyx** is a valuable stone that has layers of white and black, red, or brown. See how you translated these in [Exodus 25:7](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

They shall be set in gold (ULT)**Mount all these stones...gold (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "You shall set them in gold" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [in gold](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [gold](#)

ULT

²⁰ And the fourth row: a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be set [in gold](#)—in their ornamental settings.

UST

²⁰ Put a yellow beryl, an onyx, and a green jasper in the fourth row. Mount all these stones in decorative [gold](#) settings.

Exodus 28:21

like the engraving of a signet (ULT)

like he is making signet rings (UST)

This is an engraved stone often set into a ring and used to stamp a design into a wax seal to authenticate an official document. Here the stone is mounted on a ring. See how you translated “signet” in [Exodus 28:11](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the precious stones](#)
- [the names of](#)
- [their...names](#)
- [its name](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [tribes](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the name of](#)
- [the name of](#)
- [These name-stones](#)
- [one of the...sons of](#)
- [Jacob](#)
- [these stones](#)
- [tribes of Israel](#)

ULT

²¹ [And the precious stones](#) shall be according to [the names of the sons of Israel](#)—according to their 12 [names](#). Each shall be like the engraving of a signet according to [its name](#)—for the 12 [tribes](#).

UST

²¹ {A gem cutter should carve} [the name of one of the 12 sons of Jacob](#) into each of [these stones](#) like he is making signet rings. [These name-stones](#) will represent the 12 [tribes of Israel](#).

Exodus 28:22

twisted chains...as a work of rope—pure gold (ULT)

two chains that they made from purified gold and braided like cords (UST)

See how you translated similar phrases in [Exodus 28:14](#). Alternate translation (should replace **twisted chains**): “chains that are made of pure gold and are braided like cords” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the breastpiece](#)
- [pure](#)
- [gold](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [that they made from...gold](#)
- [purified](#)
- [the sacred pouch](#)

ULT

²² And you shall make twisted chains on [the breastpiece](#), as a work of rope—[pure gold](#).

UST

²² Attach two chains [that they made from purified gold](#) and braided like cords to [the sacred pouch](#).

Exodus 28:23

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- the breastpiece
- the breastpiece

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- the sacred pouch
- pouch

ULT

²³ And you shall make two rings of gold for the breastpiece, and you shall put the two rings on the two ends of the breastpiece.

UST

²³ Make two gold rings for the sacred pouch and attach them to the pouch's {upper} corners.

Exodus 28:24

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- the breastpiece

Translation Words - UST

- one end of each gold cord
- the pouch

ULT

²⁴ And you shall attach the two chains of gold to the rings on the two ends of the breastpiece.

UST

²⁴ Fasten one end of each gold cord to one of the rings on the top corner of the pouch.

Exodus 28:25

at the front of its face (ULT) on the front side of (UST)

Here, **face** simply refers to the object (the ephod). Alternate translation: "on its front side" (See: [Metonymy](#))

to the two ornamental settings (ULT) to the two decorative settings that enclose the stones (UST)

These are two settings that enclose the stones. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the ephod](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred apron](#)

ULT

²⁵ And you shall attach two of the ends of the two chains to the two ornamental settings, and you shall attach those to the shoulder pieces of [the ephod](#) at the front of its face.

UST

²⁵ Fasten the other end of each cord to the two decorative settings that enclose the stones. Then put those on the front side of the shoulder straps of [the sacred apron](#).

Exodus 28:26

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- the breastpiece
- the ephod

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- the sacred pouch
- the sacred apron

ULT

²⁶ And you shall make two rings of gold, and you shall put them on the two ends of the breastpiece, on the edge which is toward the inner side of the ephod.

UST

²⁶ Make two more gold rings and attach them to the lower corners of the sacred pouch on the inside edges next to the sacred apron.

Exodus 28:27

its face (ULT) the front of (UST)

Here, **face** simply refers to the object (the ephod). Alternate translation: "on its front side" (See: [Metonymy](#))

skillfully crafted waistband of (ULT) the sash (UST)

The **waistband** was a cloth belt made from narrow linen threads that someone twisted together to make a stronger thread. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:8](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [gold](#)
- [the ephod](#)
- [the ephod](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [gold](#)
- [the sacred apron](#)
- [the sacred apron](#)

ULT

²⁷ And you shall make two rings of [gold](#), and you shall put them on the two shoulder-pieces of [the ephod](#) on the bottom of the front of its face, close to its joining above the skillfully crafted waistband of [the ephod](#).

UST

²⁷ Make two more [gold](#) rings and attach them to the lower part of the front of the shoulder straps near where the shoulder straps join [the sacred apron](#) just above the sash.

Exodus 28:28

so the breastpiece shall not become detached from on (ULT)

the sacred pouch...and does not come loose from (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "so that the breastpiece shall stay attached to" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

so the breastpiece shall not become detached from on (ULT)

the sacred pouch...and does not come loose from (UST)

If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement. Alternate translation: "so that the breastpiece shall stay attached to" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the breastpiece](#)
- [the breastpiece](#)
- [the ephod](#)
- [the ephod](#)
- [the ephod](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the rings on the sacred pouch](#)
- [the sacred pouch](#)
- [on the sacred apron](#)
- [the sash](#)
- [the sacred apron](#)

ULT

²⁸ And they shall tie [the breastpiece](#) by its rings to the rings of [the ephod](#) with a cord of blue to be on the finely crafted waistband of [the ephod](#), so [the breastpiece](#) shall not become detached from on [the ephod](#).

UST

²⁸ Tie [the rings on the sacred pouch](#) to the rings [on the sacred apron](#) with a blue cord so that [the sacred pouch](#) is above [the sash](#) and does not come loose from [the sacred apron](#).

Exodus 28:29

the names of...the sons of Israel (ULT) the names of...the 12 tribes of Israel (UST)

This refers to the names of the tribes engraved on the twelve stones of the breastplate as described in [Exodus 28:17-21](#).

over his heart (ULT) close to his chest (UST)

Alternate translation: "over Aaron's heart" or "on his chest"

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- the names of
- the sons of
- Israel
- in the breastpiece of
- judgment
- his heart
- the Holy Place
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- the Holy Place
- Yahweh
- Aaron
- the names of
- the 12 tribes of Israel
- the 12 tribes of Israel
- his chest
- in the sacred pouch
- for making decisions

ULT

²⁹ And Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment over his heart when he goes into the Holy Place as a reminder before the face of Yahweh continually.

UST

²⁹ Therefore, whenever he enters the Holy Place where Yahweh is, Aaron will continually memorialize the names of the 12 tribes of Israel by carrying them close to his chest, in the sacred pouch for making decisions.

Exodus 28:30

the Urim...and the Thummim (ULT) the...things called} Urim...and Thummim (UST)

It is not clear what **the Urim and the Thummim** are. They were objects, possibly stones, that the priest used to somehow determine the will of God. Because of this, it is basically impossible to translate. In your translation, you can spell it the way it sounds in your language. (See: [Copy or Borrow Words](#))

And Aaron shall bear the judgment of the sons of Israel over his heart before the face of Yahweh continually (ULT) Aaron must always wear the items that reveal how I judge the Israelites on his chest when he meets with me (UST)

This phrase appears to refer to the Urim and Thummim and explain their purpose. Alternate translation: "And Aaron shall bear the decisions for the sons of Israel over his heart before Yahweh continually" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

before the face of Yahweh...before the face of Yahweh (ULT) to talk to me...when he meets with me (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of Yahweh. Alternate translation: "before Yahweh ... before Yahweh" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the breastpiece of](#)
- [judgment](#)
- [the judgment of](#)
- [the heart of](#)
- [his heart](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred pouch](#)
- [that he uses to know how I judged](#)
- [the items that reveal how I judge the](#)
- [his...Aaron](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [chest](#)

ULT

³⁰ And you shall put the Urim and the Thummim in [the breastpiece of judgment](#), and they shall be over [the heart of Aaron](#) when he goes in before the face of [Yahweh](#). And [Aaron](#) shall bear [the judgment of the sons of Israel](#) over [his heart](#) before the face of [Yahweh](#) continually.

UST

³⁰ Put the {things called} Urim and Thummim into [the sacred pouch that he uses to know how I judged](#). In that way, they will be close to [his chest](#) when [Aaron](#) comes to talk to [me](#). [Aaron](#) must always wear [the items that reveal how I judge the Israelites on his chest](#) when he meets with [me](#).

- his chest
- me
- me
- Israelites
- Israelites

Exodus 28:31

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the robe
- of the ephod

Translation Words - UST

- the robe...that Aaron will wear underneath his
- sacred apron

ULT

³¹ And you shall make the robe of the ephod entirely of blue.

UST

³¹ Make the robe {that Aaron will wear underneath his} sacred apron from only blue material.

Exodus 28:32**the work of a weaver (ULT)****Weave (UST)**

Alternate translation: “made by a weaver”

a weaver (ULT)**Weave (UST)**

Alternate translation: “a person who weaves” or “a person who creates cloth using thread, yarns and wool” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

a garment (ULT)**reinforced (UST)**

We do not know what this term means, but the implication seems to be that the collar should be made strong. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

so it can not tear (ULT)**to keep the collar from tearing (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language, as modeled in the UST. (See: [Active or Passive](#))

ULT

³² And there shall be an opening for his head in the middle of it. There shall be an edge for its opening all around, so it can not tear—the work of a weaver, it shall be like an opening of a garment.

UST

³² Make an opening in the middle through which the priest can put his head. Weave a reinforced border around this opening to keep the collar from tearing.

Exodus 28:33

blue, purple, and worm of scarlet (ULT) from blue, purple, and red yarn (UST)

This could mean: (1) “material that is dyed blue, purple, and scarlet,” probably wool yarn, or (2) “blue, purple and scarlet dye” to dye the linen. The original audience would have known what was meant. This material seems to have been used for embroidery later, so “yarn” or “thread” may be the best understanding. See how you translated this in 25:4 (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [pomegranates of](#)
- [purple](#)
- [gold](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [decorations that look like} pomegranate fruit...them](#)
- [purple](#)
- [gold](#)

ULT

³³ And on its bottom hem you shall make [pomegranates of](#) blue, [purple](#), and worm of scarlet all around on its hem with bells of [gold](#) between them all around:

UST

³³ All around the lower edge on the robe, fasten [{decorations that look like} pomegranate fruit](#). Make [them](#) from blue, [purple](#), and red yarn. Also [{hang} gold](#) bells in between the pomegranates.

Exodus 28:34

a bell of gold and a pomegranate, a bell of gold and a pomegranate (ULT)

So the pattern will be} one gold bell and then one pomegranate {and then repeat (UST)

This phrase is repeated to show the pattern of the design on the robe. Alternate translation: "alternate pomegranates and golden bells"

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- gold
- the robe

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- and then repeat
- the robe

ULT

³⁴ a bell of gold and a pomegranate, a bell of gold and a pomegranate all around the hem of the robe.

UST

³⁴ {So the pattern will be} one gold bell and then one pomegranate {and then repeat} all the way around the bottom of the robe.

Exodus 28:35**and its sound shall be heard (ULT)****I will hear the bells (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "so that the bells make a sound" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

before the face of Yahweh (ULT)**my presence (UST)**

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of Yahweh. Alternate translation: "before Yahweh" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Yahweh (ULT)**my presence (UST)**

Here, Yahweh refers to himself in the third person. If this is confusing in your language, you may use the first person. Alternate translation: "me" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

And he shall not die (ULT)**and he will not die (UST)**

The probable implication is that he would die because he did not obey Yahweh. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "As a result, he will not die because of disobeying my instructions" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Aaron](#)
- [the Holy Place](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [he shall...die](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Aaron...he must wear the robe](#)
- [my presence](#)
- [in the Holy Place in the sacred tent](#)
- [he will...die](#)

ULT

³⁵ And it shall be on [Aaron](#) while serving, and its sound shall be heard at his going into [the Holy Place](#) before the face of [Yahweh](#) and at his leaving. And [he shall not die](#).

UST

³⁵ Whenever [Aaron](#) enters or leaves [my presence in the Holy Place in the sacred tent](#) for his priestly ministry, [he must wear the robe](#). I will hear the bells, and [he will not die](#).

Exodus 28:36

a rosette of (ULT) a decoration from (UST)

We do not know exactly what this was. It was probably a thin piece of gold smaller than the palm of someone's hand. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and engrave on it, like the engraving on a signet (ULT) and carve into it the words...just like carving a signet ring (UST)

See how you translated similar words in [Exodus 28:11](#) Alternate translation: "write on it in the same way a person engraves on a seal." (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- gold
- Holy
- to Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- purified
- gold
- Dedicated
- to Yahweh

ULT

³⁶ And you shall make a rosette of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engraving on a signet, 'Holy to Yahweh.'

UST

³⁶ Make a decoration from purified gold and carve into it the words, 'Dedicated to Yahweh,' just like carving a signet ring.

Exodus 28:37**the turban...the turban (ULT)****the turban...the turban (UST)**

This was a head covering made from cloth wrapped around the head several times. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:4](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

toward the front of the face of the turban**(ULT)****to...the front of...the turban (UST)**

Here, **face** means the front. Alternate translation: "to the front of the turban" (See: [Metonymy](#))

ULT

³⁷ And you shall attach it by a cord of blue, and it shall be on the turban. It shall be toward the front of the face of the turban.

UST

³⁷ Fasten this ornament to the front of the turban by a blue cord.

Exodus 28:38

and Aaron shall bear the iniquity of the holy things (ULT)

If there is anything wrong with anything they dedicate to me, Aaron will be guilty instead of the (UST)

Here, **iniquity** is pictured as something that can be carried or worn like the turban. It also seems to picture handing off the iniquity from the people to Aaron. Also here, **iniquity** actually seems to refer to the punishment for anything that might be wrong regarding the things the Israelites offer Yahweh. You may need to use a different word than **bear** to convey the transfer of responsibility for wrongs from the people to Aaron. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "and Aaron shall be responsible for any wrong related to the holy things" (See: [Metaphor](#))

before the face of Yahweh (ULT) to me (UST)

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of Yahweh. Alternate translation: "before Yahweh" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Yahweh (ULT) to me (UST)

Here, Yahweh refers to himself in the third person. If this is confusing in your language, you may use the first person. Alternate translation: "me" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- Aaron
- the...of
- the holy things
- their holy things
- the sons of
- Israel
- shall cause to be holy
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- Aaron
- Israelites...people
- Israelites...people
- to me

ULT

38 And it shall be on the forehead of Aaron, and Aaron shall bear the iniquity of the holy things which the sons of Israel shall cause to be holy, for all of the gifts of their holy things, and it shall be on his forehead continually for their acceptance before the face of Yahweh.

UST

38 Aaron must always wear the turban on his forehead so that I will accept the things that the Israelites dedicate to me. If there is anything wrong with anything they dedicate to me, Aaron will be guilty instead of the people.

- If there is anything wrong
- with anything they dedicate to me
- with anything they dedicate to me
- with anything they dedicate to me

Exodus 28:39**a turban (ULT)
the turban from (UST)**

This was a head covering made from cloth wrapped around the head several times. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:4](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

**And...a sash (ULT)
the waistband (UST)**

A **sash** is a decorative piece of cloth that a person wears around his waist or across his chest. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:4](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

**an embroiderer (ULT)
A skilled weaver (UST)**

An embroiderer is a person who sews decorative designs onto cloth. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:36](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the tunic...of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the long-sleeved tunic from](#)

ULT

³⁹ And you shall weave [the tunic](#) with fine linen, and you shall make a turban [of](#) fine linen. And you shall make a sash, the work of an embroiderer.

UST

³⁹ Weave [the long-sleeved tunic from](#) fine linen. Also make the turban from fine linen. A skilled weaver must make the waistband.

Exodus 28:40

sashes (ULT) waistbands (UST)

The **sashes** are decorative pieces of cloth that people wear around the waist or across the chest. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:4](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

headbands (ULT) and caps (UST)

A headband is a decorative, narrow strip of cloth that is worn around the head above the eyes. This seems to be similar to, but perhaps smaller than the turban worn by the high priest. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And for the sons of](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [tunics](#)
- [for glory](#)
- [and for splendor](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [long-sleeved tunics](#)
- [for Aaron's sons](#)
- [for Aaron's sons](#)
- [so {they reflect my} honor](#)
- [and beauty](#)

ULT

⁴⁰ [And for the sons of Aaron](#) you shall make [tunics](#), and you shall make sashes for them, and you shall make headbands for them [for glory and for splendor](#).

UST

⁴⁰ Make [long-sleeved tunics](#), waistbands, and caps [for Aaron's sons so {they reflect my} honor and beauty](#).

Exodus 28:41

your brother...Aaron (ULT)

your older brother...Aaron (UST)

Aaron is older than Moses. If your language uses a different term for the sibling relationship based on gender and age order, choose the appropriate one. (See: [Kinship](#))

and you shall fill their hand (ULT)

and authorize them (UST)

This seems to be an idiom for giving authority to someone. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "and you shall ordain them" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And you shall clothe](#)
- [your brother](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [his sons](#)
- [and you shall set...apart](#)
- [to be priests](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Put these clothes on](#)
- [your older brother](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [on his sons](#)
- [Then consecrate](#)
- [to be...priests](#)

ULT

⁴¹ [And you shall clothe](#) them, [your brother Aaron](#) and [his sons](#) with him. And you shall anoint them, and you shall fill their hand, [and you shall set](#) them [apart to be priests](#) to me.

UST

⁴¹ [Put these clothes on your older brother Aaron](#) and [on his sons](#). [Then consecrate](#) them and authorize them [to be my priests](#) by anointing them {with olive oil}.

Exodus 28:42

undergarments of (ULT) undershorts...The undershorts (UST)

These are articles of clothing worn under the outer clothes, next to the skin. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

the flesh of nakedness (ULT) in order that no one can see their genitalia (UST)

This refers to the male genitalia. This is a polite way of referring to something unpleasant. If this would be misunderstood in your language, use a different polite way of referring to this or you could state this plainly. Alternate translation: “their private parts” (See: [Euphemism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the flesh of](#)
- [from the waist](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [from their waists](#)
- [in order that no one can see their genitalia](#)

ULT

⁴² And make for them undergarments of linen to cover [the flesh of](#) nakedness —they shall be [from the waist](#) to the thighs.

UST

⁴² Make linen undershorts for them. The undershorts should extend [from their waists](#) to their thighs [in order that no one can see their genitalia](#).

Exodus 28:43

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- his sons
- and for his offspring
- the tent of meeting
- the altar
- to serve
- in the Holy Place
- iniquity
- and die
- This is a statute
- forever

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- his sons
- must obey this rule
- forever
- the sacred tent
- the altar
- to offer sacrifices
- in the Holy Place
- guilty
- and they will...die
- and all his male descendants

ULT

⁴³ And they shall be on Aaron and on his sons at their entering into the tent of meeting or at their drawing near to the altar to serve in the Holy Place. And they shall not bear iniquity and die. This is a statute forever for him and for his offspring after him.

UST

⁴³ Aaron and his sons must always wear those undershorts when they enter the sacred tent or when they come near to the altar to offer sacrifices in the Holy Place. In this way, they will not be guilty, and they will not die. Aaron and all his male descendants must obey this rule forever.

Exodus 29

Exodus 29 General Notes

Large translation teams working on multiple books at the same time should note that this chapter is very similar to Leviticus 8.

Structure

As you translate, you may perceive a different structure in this chapter than what is below. Feel free to organize in a way that is clear in your language. This chapter is really one united whole; the outline below is one possible way of subdividing it. The Consecration of the Priests - v. 1-3 Preparing items - v. 4-9 Preparing Aaron and his sons - v. 10-14 Sacrificing the bull to purify the altar - v. 15-34 Sacrificing the rams * v. 15-18 The first ram wholly burned * v. 19-28 The second ram used for consecrating and divided for eating * v. 29-30 Priestly succession * v. 31-34 More instructions regarding eating the second ram - v. 35-37 Instructions to do all this for seven days - v. 38-41 Instructions for perpetual offerings - v. 42-46 Yahweh's affirmation

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Consecrating priests

This chapter records the process of consecrating priests. The priests were to be set apart from the rest of Israel because Yahweh is holy. (See: [consecrate](#), [consecrated](#), [consecration](#) and [priest](#), [priesthood](#) and [holy](#), [holiness](#), [unholy](#), [sacred](#))

Other Possible Translation Difficulties in this Chapter

Forms of you

For this chapter, it seems that the singular “you: that Yahweh has been using to give Moses general instructions for the last several chapters now actually refers to Moses himself. If you have been translating the instructions using a plural form of you or by shifting the instructions to the third person, you should switch back to a singular form referring directly to Moses for this chapter.

“I will live among the Israelites”

As God, Yahweh is everywhere and cannot be limited to a single space. This phrase indicates that he permanently remains within Israel in a special way while they have the ark.

Exodus 29:1

And this (ULT) the following things (UST)

A new scene begins here. There is a change in topic from instructions for making garments for priests to consecrating priests. This may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

you shall do (ULT) Do (UST)

Here, **you** refers to Moses. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

to them (ULT) Aaron and his sons (UST)

Here, **they** refers to Aaron and his sons. Alternate translation: “to Aaron and his sons” (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

to me (ULT) to serve me (UST)

Here, **me** refers to Yahweh. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

a son of the herd (ULT) young bull (UST)

This is an idiom meaning young. If you do not have a similar idiom you may translate the meaning. Alternate translation: “a young one” (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- to set...apart
- to be priests
- bull
- the herd
- a son of
- unblemished
- and...rams

Translation Words - UST

- to dedicate
- by being priests
- young bull
- young bull
- young bull
- and...rams
- that do not have any defects

ULT

¹ And this {is} the thing that you shall do to them **to set them apart to be priests** to me. Take one **bull, a son of the herd**, and two **unblemished rams**

UST

¹ Do the following things **to dedicate** Aaron and his sons to serve me **by being priests**. Select one **young bull** and two **rams that do not have any defects**.

Exodus 29:2

mixed with oil...rubbed with oil (ULT) with olive oil in it...with oil on the outside (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. You may need to shorten the sentences and make the alternate translation content separate sentences or mark it off with special punctuation. Alternate translation: "(mix them with oil) ... (rub them with oil)" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

and unleavened wafers rubbed with oil (ULT) all without yeast...and thin wafers with oil on the outside (UST)

These may have been rubbed with oil before or after baking.

and...cakes...and...wafers (ULT) soft bread...and thin wafers (UST)

These are different kinds of food made from flour. While all the breads were somewhat flat because they were unleavened, the **cakes** were a bread enriched with oil, and the **wafers** were especially thin. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- unleavened
- unleavened
- unleavened
- and...bread
- with oil
- with oil
- wheat

Translation Words - UST

- Also...plain} bread
- using finely ground wheat flour
- all without yeast
- all without yeast
- all without yeast
- with olive oil in it
- with oil on the outside

ULT

² and unleavened bread and unleavened cakes mixed with oil and unleavened wafers rubbed with oil. Make them with fine flour of wheat.

UST

² Also, using finely ground wheat flour, bake these all without yeast: {plain} bread, soft bread with olive oil in it, and thin wafers with oil on the outside.

Exodus 29:3**them (ULT)****them (UST)**

Alternate translation: “the bread, cakes, and wafers” (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

**and you shall bring them near in the basket,
and the bull and the two rams (ULT)**

**Bring the basket with the bread in it, the
young bull, and the two rams {to me (UST)}**

Here, **in the basket** is almost parenthetical. You may need to restructure the sentence or use punctuation to make it clear that **the bull and the two rams** are connected to **bring**, and not to **in the basket**. Alternate translation: “and you shall bring them near (in the basket) along with the bull and the two rams”

ULT

³ And you shall put them into one basket, and you shall bring them near in the basket, and [the bull](#) and the two [rams](#).

UST

³ Put them in a basket. Bring the basket with the bread in it, [the young bull](#), and the two [rams](#) {to me}.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the bull](#)
- [the...rams](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the young bull](#)
- [the...rams](#)

Exodus 29:4

the tent of meeting (ULT) the sacred tent (UST)

The **tent of meeting** is another name for the Dwelling. See how you translated this in [Exodus 27:21](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- his sons
- the tent of meeting
- And you shall wash
- with water

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- his sons
- the sacred tent
- and wash
- with water

ULT

⁴ And you shall bring Aaron and his sons near to the entrance of the tent of meeting. And you shall wash them with water.

UST

⁴ Take Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the sacred tent and wash them with water.

Exodus 29:5

with the finely woven waistband of (ULT) with...sash (UST)

This was a cloth belt made from narrow linen threads that someone twisted together to make a stronger thread. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:8](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- with the tunic
- the robe of
- the...ephod
- ephod
- the ephod
- the breastpiece

Translation Words - UST

- on Aaron
- the long-sleeved tunic
- the robe under
- the sacred apron
- the sacred apron
- its
- the sacred pouch

ULT

⁵ And you shall take the garments, and you shall clothe [Aaron with the tunic](#) and [the robe of the ephod](#) and the [ephod](#) and [the breastpiece](#), and you shall fasten the ephod to him with the finely woven waistband of [the ephod](#).

UST

⁵ Then put the vestments [on Aaron](#)—[the long-sleeved tunic](#), [the robe under the sacred apron](#), [the sacred apron](#), and [the sacred pouch](#). Tie the sacred apron onto him with [its](#) sash.

Exodus 29:6

the turban...the turban (ULT)

the turban...the turban (UST)

This was a head covering made from cloth wrapped around the head several times. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:4](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

the crown of...holiness (ULT)

the sacred ornament...that has the words...

Dedicated to Yahweh' engraved on it (UST)

This **crown** is described in [Exodus 28:36](#) as being engraved with the words "Holy to Yahweh" and made of pure gold. There it is referred to by a different Hebrew word, which is translated as "rosette." (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

the crown of holiness (ULT)

the sacred ornament {that has the words 'Dedicated to Yahweh' engraved on it (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. Alternate translation: "the holy crown" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [holiness](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred ornament...that has the words...Dedicated to Yahweh' engraved on it](#)

ULT

⁶ And you shall set the turban on his head and put the crown of [holiness](#) on the turban.

UST

⁶ Put the turban on his head, and fasten to the turban [the sacred ornament](#) {[that has the words 'Dedicated to Yahweh' engraved on it](#)}.

Exodus 29:7

the oil of...anointing (ULT)

anointing...oil (UST)

See how you translated **oil of anointing** in 25:6. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the oil of
- anointing
- and anoint

Translation Words - UST

- anointing
- to dedicate
- oil

ULT

⁷ And you shall take [the oil of anointing](#) and pour it on his head [and anoint](#) him.

UST

⁷ Then take the [anointing oil](#) and pour some on his head [to dedicate](#) him.

Exodus 29:8

his sons (ULT)

his sons (UST)

Alternate translation: "Aaron's sons" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [his sons](#)
- [with tunics](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [his sons](#)
- [the long-sleeved tunics](#)

ULT

⁸ And you shall bring [his sons](#) and clothe them [with tunics](#).

UST

⁸ Then bring [his sons](#) and put [the long-sleeved tunics](#) on them.

Exodus 29:9

with the sash (ULT) the sashes (UST)

A **sash** is a decorative piece of cloth that people wear around their waist or across their chest. See how you translated this word in [Exodus 28:4](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

headbands (ULT) the caps (UST)

A headband is a narrow, decorative strip of cloth that is worn around the head above the eyes. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:40](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

the priesthood (ULT) are the priests (UST)

Here, **the priesthood** means the official office of priest. Alternate translation: “the duty of being priests” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

And the priesthood will be to them (ULT) This is...they are the priests (UST)

The duty of being priests will also belong to the descendants of Aaron's sons. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: “And the priesthood will belong to them and their descendants” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

as a statute forever (ULT) an eternal law (UST)

Alternate translation: “a law that will not end.” See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:43](#).

And you shall fill the hand of Aaron and the hand of his sons (ULT) You will authorize them for this (UST)

The phrase, **fill the hand**, seems to be an idiom for giving authority to someone. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:41](#). Alternate translation: “And you shall ordain Aaron and his sons” (See: [Idiom](#))

And you shall fill the hand of Aaron and the hand of his sons (ULT) You will authorize them for this (UST)

The phrase, **fill the hand** may be (1) a summary and reminder statement of the whole ordination process, (2) referring to the previous description, meaning that the priests have been ordained, or (3) referring to the following description, meaning that the priests are about to be ordained. It would probably be best to translate this in the way a mid-text summary reminder phrase would be spoken in your language, avoiding any indication that it refers only to the previous or following text.

ULT

⁹ And you shall wrap them—[Aaron and his sons](#)—with the sash and bind headbands to them. And [the priesthood](#) will be to them [as a statute forever](#). And you shall fill the hand of [Aaron](#) and the hand of [his sons](#).

UST

⁹ Tie the sashes around [Aaron and his sons](#)' waists and secure the caps on their heads. This is [an eternal law](#): they [are the priests](#). You will authorize them for this.

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- Aaron
- and his sons
- his sons
- the priesthood
- as a statute
- forever

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- You will authorize them for this
- and his sons
- You will authorize them for this
- an eternal
- law
- are the priests

Exodus 29:10

tent of meeting

The purpose of the sacrifice explained here through verse 14 is to purify or cleanse the altar. This is made more clear in [verses 36-37](#).

to the face of the tent of meeting (ULT) to the front of the sacred tent (UST)

Here, **face** refers to the front of the tent. See the UST. (See: [Metonymy](#))

and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the bull (ULT)

While Aaron and his sons put their hands on the head of the young bull (UST)

The slaughter of the bull in the next verse occurs while the priests continue to have their hands on the bull's head. Take care to arrange the phrases and to use words or forms that indicate that the two events happened at the same time. (See: [Connect — Simultaneous Time Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the bull](#)
- [the bull](#)
- [the tent of meeting](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [and his sons](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the young bull](#)
- [the young bull](#)
- [the sacred tent](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [and his sons](#)

ULT

¹⁰ And you shall bring [the bull](#) to the face of [the tent of meeting](#), and [Aaron and his sons](#) shall lay their hands on the head of [the bull](#).

UST

¹⁰ Then bring [the young bull](#) to the front of [the sacred tent](#). While [Aaron and his sons](#) put their hands on the head of [the young bull](#),

Exodus 29:11

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- And you shall slaughter
- the bull
- Yahweh
- the tent of meeting

Translation Words - UST

- sacrifice...by slitting its throat
- the young bull
- Yahweh
- the sacred tent {and catch the blood in a bowl}

ULT

11 And you shall slaughter the bull before the face of Yahweh at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

UST

11 sacrifice the young bull {by slitting its throat} before Yahweh {outside} the entrance to the sacred tent {and catch the blood in a bowl}.

Exodus 29:12

the horns of (ULT) the projections of (UST)

These were projections that looked like ox horns attached to the four corners of the altar. See how you translated this in [Exodus 27:2](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

all of the blood (ULT) the rest of...the blood (UST)

Alternate translation: "the remaining blood"

Translation Words - ULT

- [from the blood of](#)
- [the blood](#)
- [the bull](#)
- [the altar](#)
- [the altar](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [some of that blood](#)
- [some of that blood](#)
- [the blood](#)
- [the altar](#)
- [the altar](#)

ULT

¹² And you shall take [from the blood of the bull](#) and put it on the horns of [the altar](#) with your finger, and you shall pour out all of [the blood](#) on the base of [the altar](#).

UST

¹² Take [some of that blood](#) with your finger and smear it on the projections of [the altar](#). Pour the rest of [the blood](#) at the bottom of [the altar](#).

Exodus 29:13

and cause them to become smoke (ULT)
Burn all these...until they are completely gone (UST)

Alternate translation: "and burn them to make smoke"

the liver...the...kidneys (ULT)
the liver...kidneys (UST)

The **liver** and **kidneys** are organs in the body. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [on the altar](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [on the altar](#)

ULT

¹³ And you shall take all of the fat covering the entrails and the lobe above the liver and the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, and cause them to become smoke [on the altar](#).

UST

¹³ Take all the fat that covers the inner organs of the young bull, the fatty covering of the liver, and both kidneys with the fat on them. Burn all these [on the altar](#) until they are completely gone.

Exodus 29:14

But as for the bull's flesh, as well as its skin and dung

Alternate translation: "But as for the remaining parts of the bull, including the flesh and dung, you shall burn it"

outside of the camp (ULT) outside the camp (UST)

Alternate translation: "outside the borders of where the Israelites are camped"

Translation Words - ULT

- the flesh of
- the bull
- in the fire
- is a purification offering

Translation Words - UST

- the meat of
- the young bull
- on a fire
- purifies {the altar}

ULT

¹⁴ But you shall burn the flesh of the bull and its skin and its dung in the fire outside of the camp. It is a purification offering.

UST

¹⁴ But you must burn the meat of the young bull and its hide and intestines on a fire outside the camp. {Sacrificing} the bull purifies {the altar}.

Exodus 29:15

and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram (ULT)

While Aaron and his sons put their hands on its head (UST)

The slaughter of the ram in the next verse occurs while they continue to have their hands on the ram's head. Take care to arrange the phrases and to use words or forms that indicate that the two events happened at the same time. (See: [Connect — Simultaneous Time Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- ram
- the ram
- Aaron
- and his sons

Translation Words - UST

- of the rams
- its
- Aaron
- and his sons

ULT

¹⁵ And you shall take one ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram,

UST

¹⁵ Select one of the rams. While Aaron and his sons put their hands on its head,

Exodus 29:16

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- and you shall slaughter
- the ram
- its blood
- the altar

Translation Words - UST

- kill...by slitting its throat
- the ram
- the blood
- the altar

ULT

¹⁶ and you shall slaughter the ram. And you shall take its blood and sprinkle it all around on the altar.

UST

¹⁶ kill the ram {by slitting its throat}. Catch the blood and sprinkle it all over the altar.

Exodus 29:17

its entrails (ULT)

its inner organs (UST)

Alternate translation: "the organs" See how you translated this in [Exodus 29:13](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the ram](#)
- [and wash](#)
- [its head](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the ram](#)
- [Wash](#)
- [the head](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And you shall cut [the ram](#) into pieces [and wash](#) its entrails and its legs and put them on its pieces and on [its head](#),

UST

¹⁷ Then cut [the ram](#) into pieces. [Wash](#) its inner organs and its legs, and put those with [the head](#) and the rest of the body parts

Exodus 29:18

and cause all of the ram to become smoke (ULT)

Then completely burn it all (UST)

Alternate translation: "and burn all of the ram to make smoke"

**It is a burnt offering to Yahweh. It is a scent of appeasement, a fire offering to Yahweh (ULT)
That will be a burnt offering to me, Yahweh,
and the fire's smell will please me (UST)**

These phrases are in parallel, with the second expanding and clarifying the first. In some languages, you may need to use a different structure to expand and clarify the **burnt offering**. Alternate translation: "It is a pleasant smelling burnt offering made by fire to Yahweh" (See: [Parallelism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the ram
- on the altar
- a burnt offering
- to Yahweh
- to Yahweh
- a fire offering

Translation Words - UST

- on the altar
- it
- a burnt offering
- to me, Yahweh...me
- to me, Yahweh...me
- fire's

ULT

¹⁸ and cause all of the ram to become smoke on the altar. It is a burnt offering to Yahweh. It is a scent of appeasement, a fire offering to Yahweh.

UST

¹⁸ on the altar. Then completely burn it all. That will be a burnt offering to me, Yahweh, and the fire's smell will please me.

Exodus 29:19

the second (ULT) the other (UST)

Except for **the second**, this verse is identical to [verse 15](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- ram
- the ram
- Aaron
- and his sons

Translation Words - UST

- ram
- its
- Aaron
- and his sons

ULT

¹⁹ And you shall take the second ram, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the ram,

UST

¹⁹ Take the other ram. While Aaron and his sons put their hands on its head,

Exodus 29:20

and you shall slaughter the ram (ULT) kill the ram {by slitting its throat (UST)}

They killed the ram by cutting its throat. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: “and kill the ram by cutting its throat” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- and you shall slaughter
- the ram
- some of its blood
- the blood
- Aaron
- his sons
- the altar

Translation Words - UST

- kill...by slitting its throat
- the ram
- the blood
- the rest of the blood
- Aaron's
- and his sons
- the altar

ULT

²⁰ and you shall slaughter the ram and take some of its blood. And you shall put it on the tip of the right ear of Aaron and on the tip of the right ear of his sons and on the thumb of their right hand and on the great toe of their right foot. And you shall sprinkle the blood all around on the altar.

UST

²⁰ kill the ram {by slitting its throat}. Catch the blood. Smear some of the blood on the bottom portion of Aaron's and his sons' right ears, on their right thumbs, and on the big toes on their right feet. Throw the rest of the blood against the four sides of the altar.

Exodus 29:21

And you shall take some of the blood that is on the altar and some of the oil of anointing and sprinkle it (ULT)

Wipe up some of the blood that is on the altar, mix it with some of the oil for anointing, and sprinkle it (UST)

Moses would mix the blood and oil. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "And you shall take some of the blood that is on the altar and mix it with some of the oil of anointing and sprinkle it" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the blood
- the altar
- and some of the oil of
- anointing
- Aaron
- his garments
- the garments of
- and his garments
- and the garments of
- his sons
- his sons
- and his sons
- his sons (2)
- And...will be set apart

Translation Words - UST

- the blood
- the altar
- with some of the oil for anointing
- with some of the oil for anointing
- Aaron
- his clothes
- their clothes
- and their clothes
- and their clothes
- his sons
- his sons
- them
- and their clothes (2)
- By doing this, you will dedicate...to me

ULT

²¹ And you shall take some of [the blood](#) that is on [the altar and some of the oil of anointing](#) and sprinkle it on [Aaron](#) and on [his garments](#) and on [his sons](#) and on [the garments of his sons](#) along with him. And he [will be set apart and his garments and his sons and the garments of his sons](#) along with him.

UST

²¹ Wipe up some of [the blood](#) that is on [the altar](#), mix it [with some of the oil for anointing](#), and sprinkle it on [Aaron](#) and [his clothes](#), and on [his sons](#) and [their clothes](#). [By doing this, you will dedicate them and their clothes to me.](#)

Exodus 29:22**the entrails...the liver...the...kidneys (ULT)
the inner organs...the liver...the...kidneys (UST)**

The **entrails**, **liver**, and **kidneys** refer to organs inside the body. See how you translated this in [Exodus 29:13](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the ram](#)
- [is a ram of](#)
- [consecration](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the ram's fat](#)
- [ram](#)
- [is for making holy {Aaron and his sons, who will be my priests}](#)

ULT

²² And you shall take the fat from [the ram](#) and the fat tail and the fat covering the entrails and the lobe of the liver and the two kidneys and the fat that is on them and the right thigh—for this [is a ram of consecration](#)—

UST

²² Also, cut off [the ram's fat](#): its fat tail, and the fat that covers the inner organs, the fatty covering of the liver, the two kidneys with the fat on them, and the right thigh. (This [ram is for making holy {Aaron and his sons, who will be my priests}](#).)

Exodus 29:23

and one round loaf of bread, and one cake of bread of oil, and one wafer from the basket of unleavened bread that is before the face of Yahweh (ULT)

Finally, from the basket of bread that they baked without yeast (the one that you brought to me), take a {plain} round loaf, a piece of soft bread with oil in it, and a thin wafer {with oil on the outside (UST)

All of these items were in the basket mentioned in [verse 2](#), not just the wafer. Be sure this is clear in your translation. Alternate translation: “and from the basket of bread without yeast that is before the face of Yahweh: one round loaf of bread, and one cake of bread of oil, and one wafer”

ULT

²³ and one round loaf of [bread](#), and one cake of [bread of oil](#), and one wafer from the basket of [unleavened bread](#) that is before the face of [Yahweh](#).

UST

²³ [Finally](#), from the basket of [bread that they baked without yeast](#) (the one that you brought to [me](#)), take a {[plain](#)} round loaf, a piece of soft bread with oil in it, and a thin wafer {with oil on the outside}.

and one round loaf of bread, and one cake of bread of oil, and one wafer from the basket of unleavened bread (ULT)

Finally, from the basket of bread that they baked without yeast...take a {plain} round loaf, a piece of soft bread with oil in it, and a thin wafer {with oil on the outside (UST)

For 29:23, see how you translated similar words in [Exodus 29:2](#).

that is before the face of Yahweh (ULT)

the one that you brought to me (UST)

This means in the presence of Yahweh. Alternate translation: “that you have placed before Yahweh” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [bread](#)
- [bread of](#)
- [oil](#)
- [unleavened bread](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Finally...a...plain} round loaf](#)
- [a piece of soft bread](#)
- [bread that they baked without yeast](#)
- [me](#)
- [with oil in it](#)

Exodus 29:24**all these (ULT)****all these things (UST)**

Here, **all these** refers to the parts of the sacrifice mentioned in the previous verses. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

and you shall raise (ULT)**Then tell them to lift...up high (UST)**

While the text reads, **you shall raise**, logically, it is Aaron and his sons who will raise the offerings at this point. If this is confusing in your language, you may use the third person. Alternate translation: “and they shall raise” (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

ULT

²⁴ And you shall put all these on the palms of [Aaron](#) and on the palms of [his sons](#), and you shall raise them [as a raised offering](#) before the face of [Yahweh](#).

UST

²⁴ Put all these things into the hands of [Aaron](#) and [his sons](#). Then tell them to lift them up high [to dedicate them to me](#).

and you shall raise them as a raised offering before the face of Yahweh (ULT)**Then tell them to lift them up high to dedicate them to me (UST)**

The act of raising the meat and bread symbolized dedicating it to Yahweh. The priests would be acting out the process of handing the offering to him. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: “and they shall show that they are giving them to me by holding them up to me” (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

before the face of Yahweh (ULT)**to me (UST)**

This means in the presence of Yahweh. Alternate translation: “before Yahweh” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Aaron](#)
- [his sons](#)
- [as a raised offering](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Aaron](#)
- [his sons](#)
- [to dedicate them](#)
- [me](#)

Exodus 29:25

and cause them to become smoke on the altar above the burnt offering to be an aroma of appeasing before the face of Yahweh, it is a fire offering to Yahweh (ULT) and completely burn them on the altar, on top of the burnt offering. That also will be a fire offering to me, and its smell will please me (UST)

See how you translated similar phrases in [verse 18](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [on the altar](#)
- [the burnt offering](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [is a fire offering](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [on the altar](#)
- [the burnt offering](#)
- [a fire offering](#)
- [me](#)
- [to me](#)

ULT

²⁵ And you shall take them from their hands, and cause them to become smoke [on the altar](#) above [the burnt offering](#) to be an aroma of appeasing before the face of [Yahweh](#), it is a [fire offering to Yahweh](#).

UST

²⁵ Then take them from their hands and completely burn them [on the altar](#), on top of [the burnt offering](#). That also will be [a fire offering to me](#), and its smell will please [me](#).

Exodus 29:26

from the ram of consecration (ULT) the ram...making...holy (UST)

See how you translated this in [verse 22](#). Alternate translation: “from the ram that you dedicated”

and raise it for a raised offering (ULT) and lift it up high to dedicate it (UST)

The act of raising the meat symbolized dedicating it to Yahweh. The priests would be acting out handing the offering to him. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. See how you translated this in [verse 24](#). Alternate translation: “and show that you are giving it to me by holding it up to me” (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [from the ram of](#)
- [consecration](#)
- [is for Aaron](#)
- [for a raised offering](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the ram](#)
- [making...holy](#)
- [for...Aaron](#)
- [to dedicate it](#)
- [me](#)

ULT

²⁶ And you shall take the breast [from the ram of consecration](#) that is for [Aaron](#) and raise it [for a raised offering](#) before the face of [Yahweh](#), and it will be your share.

UST

²⁶ Then take the breast of [the ram](#) for [making Aaron holy](#) and lift it up high [to dedicate it to me](#). But then this part of the animal will be for you to eat.

Exodus 29:27

**and...the raised offering that was raised...the thigh of the contribution that was contributed (ULT)
that you lifted high to dedicate to me and the thigh that you presented to me (UST)**

The act of raising the meat symbolized dedicating it to Yahweh. The priests would be acting out handing the offering to him. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. See how you translated this in [verse 24](#). (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [from the ram of](#)
- [consecration](#)
- [for Aaron](#)
- [for his sons](#)
- [And...you shall set apart](#)
- [the raised offering](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Set these apart](#)
- [from the ram for](#)
- [making holy {Aaron and his sons as my priests](#)
- [that you lifted high to dedicate to me](#)
- [These are for Aaron](#)
- [and his sons](#)

ULT

²⁷ And [from the ram of consecration](#) which is [for Aaron](#) and which is [for his sons](#), [you shall set apart](#) the breast of [the raised offering](#) that was raised and the thigh of the contribution that was contributed.

UST

²⁷ [Set these apart from the ram for making holy {Aaron and his sons as my priests}](#): the breast [that you lifted high to dedicate to me](#) and the thigh that you presented to me. [These are for Aaron and his sons](#).

Exodus 29:28

**And it shall belong to Aaron and to his sons—
as an eternal requirement—for it is an
offering from the sons of Israel (ULT)
This custom will continue forever. Whenever
the Israelites bring offerings...the breast and
the thigh of animals that they present to me
will be for Aaron and his male descendants to
eat (UST)**

Alternate translation: "This offering is what Aaron and his sons will always receive from the people"

**for it is an offering from the sons of Israel.
And it shall be an offering from the sons of
Israel from the sacrifices of their peace
offerings, their offerings to Yahweh (ULT)
Whenever the Israelites bring offerings to show they are friends with me...
that they present to me (UST)**

The amount of repetition in this verse may make it difficult to translate smoothly. You may consider combining some phrases if that would work better in your language. Alternate translation: "for the Israelites must offer this portion from what they bring to Yahweh as peace offerings to him"

Translation Words - ULT

- to Aaron
- and to his sons
- the sons of
- the sons of
- their peace offerings
- to Yahweh
- an eternal
- as...requirement
- is an offering
- And...an offering
- their offerings
- Israel
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- This custom
- will continue forever
- with me
- for Aaron...to eat
- and his male descendants
- the Israelites

ULT

²⁸ And it shall belong to Aaron and to his sons—as an eternal requirement—for it is an offering from the sons of Israel. And it shall be an offering from the sons of Israel from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, their offerings to Yahweh.

UST

²⁸ This custom will continue forever. Whenever the Israelites bring offerings to show they are friends with me, the breast and the thigh of animals that they present to me will be for Aaron and his male descendants to eat.

- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- bring offerings...that they present to me
- bring offerings...that they present to me
- bring offerings...that they present to me
- to show they are friends

Exodus 29:29

And the garments of holiness (ULT) the sacred vestments (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. See how you translated this in [28:2](#). (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

and to fill their hand in them (ULT) They will wear them...to authorize them to be priests (UST)

Fill their hand seems to be an idiom for giving authority to someone. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:41](#). Alternate translation: "to ordain them in the clothing" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the garments of](#)
- [holiness](#)
- [are for Aaron](#)
- [for his sons](#)
- [for anointing](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [sacred](#)
- [the...vestments](#)
- [he wore](#)
- [to his male descendants](#)
- [when {a leader} anoints them](#)

ULT

²⁹ [And the garments of holiness](#) that [are for Aaron](#) shall be [for his sons](#) after him, [for anointing](#) in them and to fill their hand in them.

UST

²⁹ After Aaron {dies}, the [sacred vestments](#) that [he wore](#) will belong to [his male descendants](#). They will wear them [when {a leader} anoints them](#) to authorize them to be priests.

Exodus 29:30

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- The priest
- from among his sons
- the tent of meeting
- to serve
- in the Holy Place
- days

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron's descendant
- high priest
- the...sacred...tent
- and performs rituals
- in the Holy Place
- days

ULT

³⁰ The priest who succeeds him from among his sons, who comes into the tent of meeting to serve in the Holy Place, shall wear them for seven days.

UST

³⁰ Aaron's descendant who becomes high priest after him and enters the sacred tent and performs rituals in the Holy Place must wear these vestments for seven days.

Exodus 29:31

the ram of consecration (ULT)
the ram...that they sacrificed to make Aaron
and his sons holy (UST)

The **ram of consecration** refers to the second ram, the one described in [verses 19](#) and following.

in a holy place (ULT)
in a location set aside for that (UST)

This is not the same as the Holy Place outside of the Most Holy Place. This probably refers to a place within the courtyard. However, its exact location is not otherwise specified. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "at the entrance to the tent of meeting" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the ram of](#)
- [consecration](#)
- [its meat](#)
- [a holy](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the breast and thigh of](#)
- [the ram](#)
- [that they sacrificed to make Aaron and his sons holy](#)
- [set aside for that](#)

ULT

³¹ And you shall take [the ram of consecration](#) and boil [its meat](#) in a [holy place](#).

UST

³¹ Take [the breast and thigh of the ram that they sacrificed to make Aaron and his sons holy](#), and boil it in a location [set aside for that](#).

Exodus 29:32

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- and his sons
- the ram
- the bread
- to the tent of meeting

Translation Words - UST

- cooked,} Aaron
- and his sons
- the meat
- along with the bread
- to the sacred tent

ULT

³² And Aaron and his sons shall eat the meat of the ram and the bread that is in the basket at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

UST

³² {After it is cooked,} Aaron and his sons must eat the meat, along with the bread that is left in the basket, at the entrance to the sacred tent.

Exodus 29:33

to fill their hand (ULT) when they became priests (UST)

This seems to be an idiom for giving authority to someone. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:41](#). Alternate translation: "to ordain them" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- atoning
- to set...apart
- are set apart

Translation Words - UST

- the offering...by covering their sins
- that made...holy
- reserved for the priests

ULT

³³ And they shall eat these that were for their [atoning](#) to fill their hand, [to set](#) them [apart](#). But a stranger shall not eat them, because they [are set apart](#).

UST

³³ They will eat these things from [the offering that made](#) them [holy by covering their sins](#) when they became priests. But no one else can eat these things, because they are [reserved for the priests](#).

Exodus 29:34

It shall not be eaten (ULT)

Do not eat any of it (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "No one may eat it" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the consecration](#)
- [the bread](#)
- [with fire](#)
- [is set apart](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the holy](#)
- [bread](#)
- [you must completely burn](#)
- [is sacred](#)

ULT

³⁴ And if any meat of [the consecration](#) or any of [the bread](#) remains until the morning, then you shall burn the remainder [with fire](#). It shall not be eaten, because it [is set apart](#).

UST

³⁴ If any of [the holy](#) meat or [bread](#) is left over in the morning, [you must completely burn](#) it. Do not eat any of it, because it [is sacred](#).

Exodus 29:35**thus (ULT)****all this...just as (UST)**

Here, **thus** means “like this” and, as the next verses make clear, refers to the sacrificial ceremony outlined in this chapter which they must repeat seven times.

seven (ULT)**seven (UST)**

Alternate translation: “7” (See: [Numbers](#))

you shall fill their hand (ULT)**You will prepare them (UST)**

This seems to be an idiom for giving authority to someone. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:41](#). Alternate translation: “you shall ordain them” (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [to Aaron](#)
- [and to his sons](#)
- [I have commanded](#)
- [their hand](#)
- [days](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [to Aaron](#)
- [and his sons](#)
- [I have told](#)
- [You will prepare them](#)
- [for...days](#)

ULT

³⁵ And thus you shall do [to Aaron and to his sons](#) according to all that [I have commanded](#) you: you shall fill [their hand](#) seven [days](#).

UST

³⁵ Do all this [to Aaron and his sons](#) just as [I have told](#) you. [You will prepare them](#) for seven [days](#).

Exodus 29:36

General Information:

This verse and the next explain the purpose of the sacrifice detailed in [verses 10-14](#).

**And you shall offer a bull of purification for atonement daily, and you shall purify the altar by making atonement for it (ULT)
Sacrifice a {young} bull to purify {the altar} each of those days. That will ceremonially cleanse the altar by covering the altar's imperfections (UST)**

The phrase **and you shall purify the altar by making atonement for it** describes the purpose of offering the bull. You may want to use a stronger connector. In languages that need to put purpose first, you may need to re-order the clauses. Alternate translation: "And you shall offer a bull of purification for atonement daily, thus you shall purify the altar, by making atonement for it." or "You shall purify the altar by making atonement for it: you shall offer a bull of purification daily for its atonement." (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

ULT

36 And you shall offer a bull of purification for atonement daily, and you shall purify the altar by making atonement for it. And you shall anoint it to set it apart.

UST

36 Sacrifice a {young} bull to purify {the altar} each of those days. That will ceremonially cleanse the altar by covering the altar's imperfections. You must also pour {olive oil} over the altar to dedicate it {to Yahweh}.

Translation Words - ULT

- you shall offer
- And...a bull of
- purification
- and you shall purify
- atonement
- by making atonement
- daily
- the altar
- And you shall anoint
- to set it apart

Translation Words - UST

- Sacrifice
- a {young} bull
- to purify {the altar}
- That will ceremonially cleanse
- each of those days
- the altar
- by covering the altar's imperfections
- by covering the altar's imperfections
- You must also pour {olive oil} over
- to dedicate it {to Yahweh}

Exodus 29:37

a holiest holy thing (ULT) so very holy (UST)

Here, **holiest holy** means extremely or uniquely holy. If this form would not express that this item would become uniquely holy in your language you may need to find another way to express this idea. Alternate translation: “a most holy thing” or “extraordinarily holy” (See: [Possession](#))

will be set apart (ULT) that it will make...holy too (UST)

Alternate translation: “will also become set apart”

Translation Words - ULT

- the altar
- the altar
- the altar
- days
- and set...apart
- a...holy thing
- holiest
- will be set apart

Translation Words - UST

- the altar
- It
- it
- days
- you will have made...holy
- so very
- holy
- that it will make...holy too

ULT

³⁷ You shall make atonement for the altar seven days, and set it apart. And the altar will be a holiest holy thing. Whatever touches the altar will be set apart.

UST

³⁷ After you cover the altar for seven days you will have made it holy. It will be so very holy that it will make anything that touches it holy too.

Exodus 29:38

sons of a year (ULT)

one-year-old (UST)

The phrase **sons of a year** is an idiom meaning one year old. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- you shall offer
- the altar
- every day
- lambs
- sons of
- a year

Translation Words - UST

- You must...sacrifice
- one-year-old
- one-year-old
- lambs
- per day
- the altar

ULT

³⁸ And this is what you shall offer on the altar every day continually: two lambs, sons of a year.

UST

³⁸ You must also perpetually sacrifice two one-year-old lambs per day on the altar.

Exodus 29:39

between the evenings (ULT) around twilight (UST)

The exact meaning of this phrase is debated. Since the priests ate many of the sacrifices, it may have been offered around the time of the evening meal. (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [The...lamb](#)
- [lamb](#)
- [you shall offer](#)
- [you shall offer](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You must sacrifice](#)
- [You must sacrifice](#)
- [lamb](#)
- [the other](#)

ULT

³⁹ The one [lamb you shall offer](#) in the morning, and the second [lamb you shall offer](#) between the evenings.

UST

³⁹ [You must sacrifice](#) one [lamb](#) in the morning and [the other](#) around twilight.

Exodus 29:40

a tenth of...the fourth part of...the fourth part of (ULT)

also {offer} two liters of...a liter of...one liter of (UST)

A **tenth** means one part out of ten equal parts. A **fourth** means one part out of four equal parts. (See: [Fractions](#))

a tenth of fine flour (ULT)

also {offer} two liters of finely ground wheat flour (UST)

Many commentators suggest that this means one tenth of an “ephah” even though “ephah” is not written. If your translation style retains the original measurement words, you may need to insert the word you are using for “ephah” here. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

a tenth of fine flour...the fourth part of a hin...the fourth part of a hin of (ULT)
also {offer} two liters of finely ground wheat flour...a liter of...one liter of (UST)

The values given in the UST are approximations as the exact size of an ephah and a hin is not precisely known. An ephah (the implied measurement) may have been around 22 liters, so this is about 2.2 liters of flour. A hin may have been around 3.7 liters, so this is about one liter of both oil and wine. (See: [Biblical Volume](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [For...lamb](#)
- [and a drink offering](#)
- [wine](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [With...lamb](#)
- [wine](#)
- [and...as a drink-offering](#)

ULT

⁴⁰ For the first [lamb](#): a tenth of fine flour mixed with pressed oil (the fourth part of a hin) [and a drink offering](#): the fourth part of a hin of [wine](#).

UST

⁴⁰ With the first [lamb](#), also {offer} two liters of finely ground wheat flour mixed with a liter of the best kind of olive oil, and one liter of [wine as a drink-offering](#).

Exodus 29:41

between the evenings (ULT)

In the evening (UST)

The exact meaning of the phrase **between the evenings** is debated. Since the priests ate many of the sacrifices, it may have been offered around the time of the evening meal. See how you translated it in [verse 39](#). (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [you shall offer](#)
- [You shall offer](#)
- [lamb](#)
- [the same grain offering as](#)
- [and the same drink offering](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [when you sacrifice](#)
- [offer](#)
- [lamb](#)
- [the same amounts of flour, olive oil](#)
- [and wine](#)
- [to me, Yahweh](#)

ULT

⁴¹ And [you shall offer](#) the second [lamb](#) between the evenings. [You shall offer the same grain offering as](#) in the morning [and the same drink offering](#) with it for a scent of appeasement, a fire offering [to Yahweh](#).

UST

⁴¹ In the evening, [when you sacrifice](#) the other [lamb](#), [offer the same amounts of flour, olive oil, and wine](#) as you did in the morning. This will be an offering [to me, Yahweh](#), that they will burn, and its smell will please me.

Exodus 29:42

throughout your generations (ULT)
You and your descendants...throughout all
future generations (UST)

Alternate translation: "through all the generations of your descendants." See how you translated this in [Exodus 12:14](#).

before the face of Yahweh (ULT)
to me, Yahweh (UST)

This means in the presence of Yahweh. Alternate translation: "before Yahweh" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [It shall be a...burnt offering](#)
- [throughout your generations](#)
- [to the tent of meeting](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You and your descendants...throughout all future generations](#)
- [making these offerings](#)
- [to me, Yahweh](#)
- [to the sacred tent](#)

ULT

⁴² [It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations](#), at the entrance [to the tent of meeting](#) before the face of [Yahweh](#), there where I will meet with you to speak to you there.

UST

⁴² [You and your descendants](#) must continue [making these offerings to me, Yahweh, throughout all future generations](#). You must offer them at the entrance [to the sacred tent](#). That is where I will meet with you and speak to you.

Exodus 29:43

**and it will be set apart by my glory (ULT)
and the brilliant light of my presence will
cause that place to be holy (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "My awesome presence will dedicate the tent to me" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- with the sons of
- Israel
- and it will be set apart
- by my glory

Translation Words - UST

- with the Israelites
- with the Israelites
- and the brilliant light of my presence
- will cause that place to be holy

ULT

⁴³ And I will meet with the sons of Israel there, and it will be set apart by my glory.

UST

⁴³ That is where I will meet with the Israelites, and the brilliant light of my presence will cause that place to be holy.

Exodus 29:44

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- And I will set apart
- I will set apart
- the tent of...meeting
- the altar
- Aaron
- his sons
- to be priests

Translation Words - UST

- I will dedicate
- I will...dedicate
- the sacred tent
- the altar
- Aaron
- his sons
- to be...priests

ULT

⁴⁴ And I will set apart the tent of meeting and the altar. And I will set apart Aaron and his sons to be priests to me.

UST

⁴⁴ I will dedicate the sacred tent and the altar. I will also dedicate Aaron and his sons to be my priests.

Exodus 29:45

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the sons of
- Israel
- God

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- God

ULT

⁴⁵ And I will live among the sons of Israel and will be their God.

UST

⁴⁵ I will live with the Israelites, and I will be their God.

Exodus 29:46

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- And they will know
- I am Yahweh
- I am Yahweh
- their God
- their God
- from the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- They will know
- I, Yahweh...am
- I am Yahweh
- their God
- the God whom they worship
- out of Egypt
- out of Egypt

ULT

⁴⁶ And they will know that I am Yahweh their God, who brought them out from the land of Egypt to live among them. I am Yahweh their God.

UST

⁴⁶ They will know that I, Yahweh their God, am the one who brought them out of Egypt in order that I might live among them. I am Yahweh, the God whom they worship.

Exodus 30

Exodus 30 General Notes

This chapter is mostly a return to instructions for building worship equipment for the sacred tent. The forms of “you” are mostly singular. However, they again refer to the workmen that Moses will instruct, so you should return to whatever form you have been following in chapters 25-28.

Structure:

- v. 1-10: Incense altar
 - v. 1-6: Instructions for making the incense altar
 - v. 7-10: Use of the incense altar
- v. 11-16: Ransom money for taking a census
- v. 17-21: Instructions for a washbasin
- v. 22-30: Anointing oil
 - v. 22-25: Instructions for making the oil
 - v. 26-33: Instructions for using the oil v- 34-38: Making and using sacred incense

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Atonement

Through the offering of blood and money, things and people were kept in God's favor. (See: [atonement](#), [atone](#), [atoned](#))

Holiness

Some items in this chapter became so holy that they could make other things holy. (See: [holy](#), [holiness](#), [unholy](#), [sacred](#))

Unknown terms

There are a number of ingredient terms that are unknown even to scholars.

Exodus 30:1

And you shall make (ULT)

Make (UST)

Here, **you** refers to Moses and the people of Israel. If your language makes a distinction, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [an altar](#)
- [incense](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [an altar](#)
- [incense](#)

ULT

¹ And you shall make [an altar](#), a place of burning of [incense](#). You shall make it with wood of acacias,

UST

¹ Make [an altar](#) from acacia wood for burning [incense](#).

Exodus 30:2

Its horns (ULT)

Make...projections that look like} horns on the same block of wood as the altar (UST)

See how you translated **horns** in [Exodus 27:2](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

**shall be one cubit...and...shall be one cubit...
and...shall be two cubits (ULT)
one-half meter on each side...one-half meter
on each side...It is to be one meter (UST)**

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A **cubit** is approximately 46cm. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 46cm ... 46cm ... 94cm (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Its horns](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Make...projections that look like} horns on the same block of wood as the altar](#)

ULT

² Its length shall be one cubit and its width shall be one cubit. It shall be square, and its height shall be two cubits. [Its horns](#) {shall be} part of it.

UST

² It is to be square, one-half meter on each side. It is to be one meter high. [Make {projections that look like} horns on the same block of wood as the altar.](#)

Exodus 30:3

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 25:11](#), so see how you translated there.

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- with...gold
- gold
- its sides

Translation Words - UST

- the four sides
- with pure
- gold
- a gold

ULT

³ And you shall overlay it with **pure gold**—its top and all around **its sides** and its horns—and you shall make for it a border of **gold** around it.

UST

³ Cover the top and **the four sides**, including the projections, **with pure gold**. Put **a gold** molding all around it.

Exodus 30:4

to be attached to it

When translating this verse, you may want to refer back to several other passages regarding making rings for carrying poles. See [Exo 25:12](#), [Exo 25:26](#), [Exo 25:27](#), & [Exo 27:4](#).

housings (ULT) to hold (UST)

Here, the word **housings** means that the rings will hold the poles. Since they are where the poles belong for use, they are figuratively their house. If you have a similar idiom meaning "place of belonging," you may use it or you may translate the idea. Alternate translation: "a place" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [gold](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [gold](#)

ULT

⁴ And you shall make two rings of [gold](#) for it under its border on its two sides. You shall make them on its two sides. They will be housings for the poles for carrying it with.

UST

⁴ Make two [gold](#) rings and attach them to the altar below the molding, one on each side of the altar. These rings are to hold the poles for carrying the altar.

Exodus 30:5

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- with gold

Translation Words - UST

- with gold

ULT

⁵ And you shall make the poles of wood of acacias, and you shall overlay them with gold.

UST

⁵ Make these two poles from acacia wood and cover them with gold.

Exodus 30:6

before the face of...It shall be before the face of (ULT)

outside...The chest that has (UST)

Here, **before the face of** means in front of. (See: [Metonymy](#))

you (ULT)

with you (UST)

Here, **you** refers to Moses. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Singular](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the curtain](#)
- [the Box of the Testimony](#)
- [the atonement lid](#)
- [the Testimony](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the curtain](#)
- [the sacred chest](#)
- [a lid](#)
- [the stone slabs](#)

ULT

⁶ And you shall place it before the face of [the curtain](#) that is over [the Box of the Testimony](#). It shall be before the face of [the atonement lid](#) that is over [the Testimony](#), where I will meet with you.

UST

⁶ Put this incense altar outside [the curtain](#) that hangs in front of [the sacred chest](#). (The chest that has [a lid](#) covering [the stone slabs](#), where I will talk with you.)

Exodus 30:7

Morning by morning (ULT) every morning (UST)

Alternate translation: "Each morning" or "Daily, in the morning"

when he makes the lamps good (ULT) when he takes care of the lamps (UST)

The lamps had burned overnight and weren't needed during the day, so he would put them out and do whatever maintenance was required for them to be ready to burn again in the evening. Alternate translation: "trims the lamps"

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- incense of
- the lamps

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- incense
- the lamps

ULT

⁷ And Aaron shall cause smoke on it, incense of fragrance. Morning by morning, when he makes the lamps good, he shall cause it to smoke,

UST

⁷ Aaron must burn sweet-smelling incense on this altar. He must burn some every morning when he takes care of the lamps,

Exodus 30:8

and when Aaron lifts up the lamps (ULT) and...when he lights the lamps (UST)

This may indicate that in the morning Aaron had taken the lamps down, and he would light them and then put them up on the holders in the evening.

between the evenings (ULT) in the evening (UST)

The exact meaning of this phrase is debated. See how you translated it in [29:39](#). (See: [Idiom](#))

throughout your generations (ULT) throughout all future generations (UST)

Alternate translation: “through all the generations of your descendants.” See how you translated this in [Exodus 12:14](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [Aaron](#)
- [the lamps](#)
- [Incense](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [throughout your generations](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [he](#)
- [the lamps](#)
- [keep incense burning](#)
- [me](#)
- [throughout all future generations](#)

ULT

⁸ and when [Aaron](#) lifts up [the lamps](#) between the evenings, he will make it smoke. [Incense](#) will be continually before the face of [Yahweh](#) throughout your generations.

UST

⁸ and he must burn some in the evening when [he](#) lights [the lamps](#). Always [keep incense burning](#) for [me](#) throughout all future generations.

Exodus 30:9

**You shall not offer up strange incense or a burnt offering or a grain offering on it (ULT)
Do not burn on the altar any incense that I have not told you to burn, or burn any animal on it, or any flour offering for me (UST)**

Later, in [verses 34](#) and following, God describes how to make the one sort of incense that he wants burnt on this altar. Alternate translation: "You shall only offer up the kind of incense I tell you. You shall not make burnt or grain offerings on it."

Translation Words - ULT

- You shall...offer up
- incense
- or a burnt offering
- or a grain offering
- And...a drink offering

Translation Words - UST

- Do...burn
- any incense
- or burn any animal on it
- or any flour offering for me
- any wine...as an offering

ULT

⁹ You shall not offer up strange incense or a burnt offering or a grain offering on it. And you shall not pour a drink offering on it.

UST

⁹ Do not burn on the altar any incense that I have not told you to burn, or burn any animal on it, or any flour offering for me, nor pour any wine on it as an offering.

Exodus 30:10

It is a holiest holy thing to Yahweh (ULT)
The altar will be very holy, dedicated to me, Yahweh (UST)

This last clause defines the purpose of the ritual described in this verse. See [Exo 29:37](#). Use a natural way in your language for indicating purpose. Alternate translation: "This is to make it holy of holies to Yahweh." (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

its horns (ULT)
the projections on the altar (UST)

These were projections that looked like ox horns and were attached to the four corners of the altar. See how you translated this in [Exodus 27:2](#).

throughout your generations (ULT)
throughout all future generations (UST)

Alternate translation: "through all the generations of your descendants." See how you translated this in [Exodus 12:14](#).

a holiest holy thing (ULT)
will be very holy, dedicated (UST)

Here, **holiest holy** means extremely or uniquely holy. If this form would not express that this item would become uniquely holy in your language you may need to find another way to express this idea. See how you translated this in [Exodus 29:37](#). Alternate translation: "a most holy thing" or "extraordinarily holy" (See: [Possession](#))

to Yahweh (ULT)
to me, Yahweh (UST)

After **Yahweh**, the direct quote that began in [Exo 25:2](#) ends. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with a closing first-level quotation mark or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate the end of a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- And...shall make atonement
- the atonement
- he shall make atonement
- a...holy thing
- holiest
- to Yahweh
- its horns
- a year
- a year
- From the blood of

ULT

¹⁰ And Aaron shall make atonement on its horns once a year. From the blood of the purification of the atonement once a year he shall make atonement for it throughout your generations. It is a holiest holy thing to Yahweh."

UST

¹⁰ Once a year, Aaron must take the purifying blood from the annual sacrifice that covers up the bad things people do and put it on the projections on the altar to cover the altar's flaws. {Each high priest} will cover the altar's flaws{this way} throughout all future generations. The altar will be very holy, dedicated to me, Yahweh."

- the purification of
- throughout your generations

Translation Words - UST

- a year
- annual
- Aaron
- throughout all future generations
- will be very holy, dedicated
- will be very holy, dedicated
- to me, Yahweh
- must take the...blood
- purifying
- to cover the altar's flaws
- from the...sacrifice that covers up the bad things people do
- Each high priest} will cover the altar's flaws{this way
- the projections on the altar

Exodus 30:11

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses

ULT

¹¹ And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

UST

¹¹ Yahweh said to Moses,

Exodus 30:12

you lift up the head of (ULT) your leaders} count (UST)

In this context, **lift up the head** means to take a census. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "take a census" (See: [Idiom](#))

you lift up (ULT) your leaders} count (UST)

This could mean: (1) **you** refers to Moses and the leaders of Israel in future generations when they take a census or (2) **you** refers to just Moses. (See: [Forms of You](#))

each man (ULT) each man (UST)

The leaders only counted the Israelite men.

Translation Words - ULT

- you lift up the head of
- the sons of
- Israel
- the ransom of
- his life
- to Yahweh
- a plague

Translation Words - UST

- your leaders} count
- Israelites
- Israelites
- a price...to save his life
- a price...to save his life
- to me
- do...cause...to become sick and die

ULT

¹² "When you lift up the head of the sons of Israel to count them, then each man shall give the ransom of his life to Yahweh when counting them. And there will not be a plague among them when counting them.

UST

¹² "Whenever {your leaders} count to find out how many Israelites there are, each man who {they} count must pay a price to me to save his life. This is so I do not cause the people to become sick and die when {the leaders} count them.

Exodus 30:13

**Every passer over to the counted ones (ULT)
When a man walks by a leader so he can count
him (UST)**

This is an idiom that suggests that the men were counted by walking past someone who was counting people as they walked by. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "Everyone counted" (See: [Idiom](#))

**a shekel...according to the shekel of...the
shekel...gerahs...shekel (ULT)
a standard weight...Use...weight standard...
which is about 11 grams...weight {of silver
(UST)**

The **shekel** and the **gerah** are units of weight. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. (See: [Biblical Weight](#))

**a shekel...according to the shekel of...the shekel...shekel (ULT)
a standard weight...Use...weight standard...which is about 11 grams...weight
{of silver (UST)**

The **shekel** was used as both a weight and a unit of money. (See: [Biblical Money](#))

**half of...The half (ULT)
that weighs half of...This half (UST)**

A **half** means one part out of two equal parts. (See: [Fractions](#))

**according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is 20 gerahs (ULT)
Use the official tabernacle weight standard, which is about 11 grams (UST)**

There were evidently shekels of more than one weight at the time. This specified which one was to be used.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sanctuary](#)
- [is an offering](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the official tabernacle](#)
- [is an offering](#)
- [to me, Yahweh](#)

ULT

¹³ Every passer over to the counted ones shall give this: half of a shekel, according to the shekel of [the sanctuary](#) (the shekel is 20 gerahs). The half shekel [is an offering to Yahweh](#).

UST

¹³ When a man walks by a leader so he can count him he must pay {silver} that weighs half of a standard weight. (Use [the official tabernacle](#) weight standard, which is about 11 grams.) This half-weight {of silver} [is an offering to me, Yahweh](#).

Exodus 30:14

Every passer over to the counted ones (ULT)
Every man...when he walks by a leader so the leader can count him (UST)

This is an idiom that suggests that the men were counted by walking past someone who was counting people as they walked by. It is the same phrase as in the [previous verse](#). Alternate translation: "Everyone counted" (See: [Idiom](#))

from a son of 20 years (ULT)
who is at least 20 years old (UST)

This is an idiom that refers to age. See the UST and how you translated the same idiom in [Exo 7:7](#). (See: [Idiom](#))

from a son of 20 years and up (ULT)
who is at least 20 years old (UST)

Larger numbers are spoken of as being up or above smaller numbers. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "from twenty years old and more" or "who is twenty years old or older" (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the contribution of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [this amount](#)
- [to me, Yahweh](#)

ULT

¹⁴ Every passer over to the counted ones, from a son of 20 years and up, shall give [the contribution of Yahweh](#).

UST

¹⁴ Every man who is at least 20 years old must pay [this amount to me, Yahweh](#), when he walks by a leader so the leader can count him.

Exodus 30:15

from the half-shekel (ULT)
than this amount...than this amount (UST)

See how you translated this in [Exodus 3:13](#). (See: [Biblical Money](#))

your lives (ULT)
their lives (UST)

The plural form of you is used here. In many cases, since Yahweh is speaking to Moses about the people that will be counted, it may make more sense to change to the third person. However, Moses would be counted as well and would have to pay the ransom, so a form of you that could include Moses and all the other Israelite men would also be an appropriate translation. (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [to cover](#)
- [your lives](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [to me, Yahweh](#)
- [to save](#)
- [their lives](#)

ULT

¹⁵ The rich shall not increase, and the poor shall not decrease from the half-shekel for giving the contribution of [Yahweh to cover](#) over [your lives](#).

UST

¹⁵ Rich men must not pay more than this amount, and poor men must not pay less than this amount when they pay this money [to me, Yahweh](#), [to save their lives](#).

Exodus 30:16

to...And it shall be as a reminder for the sons of Israel before the face of Yahweh to cover... your lives (ULT)

for...It will remind me, Yahweh, that the Israelites have paid money to save their lives (UST)

This sentence is very unclear. It is not clear who is being reminded of what. This could mean: (1) that it will remind Yahweh that the Israelites have given money for their lives, and therefore he should welcome them. (2) that it will remind the Israelites that they have given Yahweh money for their lives. Therefore, Yahweh will welcome them.

**before the face of Yahweh (ULT)
me, Yahweh (UST)**

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of Yahweh. Alternate translation: "before Yahweh" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the silver of
- ransoms
- the sons of
- for the sons of
- Israel
- Israel
- the tent of meeting
- the face of Yahweh
- to cover
- your lives

Translation Words - UST

- the life-saving
- money
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- the sacred tent
- me, Yahweh
- that...have paid money to save
- their lives

ULT

¹⁶ And you shall take the silver of ransoms from the sons of Israel, and you shall give it to the work of the tent of meeting. And it shall be as a reminder for the sons of Israel before the face of Yahweh to cover over your lives."

UST

¹⁶ Take the life-saving money from the Israelites and use it for work on the sacred tent. It will remind me, Yahweh, that the Israelites have paid money to save their lives."

Exodus 30:17

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses

ULT

¹⁷ And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

UST

¹⁷ Yahweh said to Moses,

Exodus 30:18

a basin of bronze (ULT) a bronze washbasin (UST)

Alternate translation: "a bronze bowl" or "a bronze tub" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and its base of (ULT) and a...base for it (UST)

The **base** is what the basin would be put upon.

for washing (ULT) washbasin (UST)

This phrase, **for washing**, explains the purpose for which the priests were to use the bronze basin.

Translation Words - ULT

- bronze
- bronze
- the tent of meeting
- the altar
- water

Translation Words - UST

- a bronze
- bronze
- the sacred tent
- the altar
- with water

ULT

¹⁸ "And you shall make a basin of **bronze** and its base of **bronze** for washing. And you shall put it between **the tent of meeting** and **the altar**, and you shall put **water** in it.

UST

¹⁸ "Make a **bronze** washbasin and a **bronze** base for it. Put it between **the sacred tent** and **the altar** and fill it **with water**.

Exodus 30:19

in it (ULT)
in the basin (UST)

Alternate translation: "in the water in the basin"

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- and his sons
- And...shall wash their

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- and his sons
- must wash

ULT

¹⁹ And Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in it.

UST

¹⁹ Aaron and his sons must wash their hands and their feet in the basin.

Exodus 30:20

and they will not die (ULT) so they will not die (UST)

The priests might die if they do not wash because God would kill them for being defiled in his presence. If your readers would not understand this you may want to include it in a footnote or in the text. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

and they will not die (ULT) so they will not die (UST)

Not dying is the goal of the priests' washing. If the goal of some action needs to be placed elsewhere in the structure of your language move it to the usual location. (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the tent of meeting
- they shall wash
- with water
- they will...die
- the altar
- to serve
- a fire offering
- to Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- They must wash
- with water
- the sacred tent
- they will...die
- the altar
- to burn offerings as sacrifices
- to burn offerings as sacrifices
- to me, Yahweh

ULT

²⁰ When they go into the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, and they will not die. Also when they go near to the altar to serve by causing a fire offering to Yahweh to smoke,

UST

²⁰ They must wash with water before they enter the sacred tent so they will not die. Before they come to the altar to burn offerings as sacrifices to me, Yahweh,

Exodus 30:21

And this shall be a statute forever for them, for him and his offspring throughout their generations (ULT)

This will be a ritual for them and every generation of men descended from Aaron for all time (UST)

See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 12:17](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- then they shall wash
- they will...die
- a statute
- and his offspring
- throughout their generations

Translation Words - UST

- they must wash
- they will...die
- a ritual
- and every generation of men descended from Aaron
- and every generation of men descended from Aaron

ULT

²¹ then they shall wash their hands and their feet, and they will not die. And this shall be a statute forever for them, for him and his offspring throughout their generations."

UST

²¹ they must wash their hands and their feet so that they will not die. This will be a ritual for them and every generation of men descended from Aaron for all time."

Exodus 30:22

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses

ULT

²² And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

UST

²² Yahweh said to Moses,

Exodus 30:23

spices (ULT)

some of the finest spices (UST)

These are parts of dried plants (other than the leaves) which people grind into a powder and put in oil or food to give it a nice smell or flavor. See how you translated this in [Exodus 25:6](#). (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

500...250...250 (ULT)

six kilograms of...three kilograms of...three kilograms of (UST)

The next verse mentions that these are shekel weight measurements. You may want to include some indication of that here. Alternate translation: "500 shekels ... 250 shekels ... 250 shekels" (See: [Ellipsis](#))

and cinnamon of (ULT)

and...cinnamon (UST)

We know that **cinnamon** is a sweet spice taken from the inside of the bark of a tree that grows in south-east Asia. See [Wikipedia](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and cane of (ULT)

a...cane (UST)

This plant is unknown to scholars. Alternate translation: "and reed of" (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [myrrh of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [myrrh](#)

ULT

²³ "As for you, take the best spices: [myrrh of](#) flowing, 500, and cinnamon of fragrance, its half, 250, and cane of fragrance, 250,

UST

²³ "Collect to yourself some of the finest spices—six kilograms of liquid [myrrh](#), and then half that much: three kilograms of sweet-smelling cinnamon, three kilograms of a sweet-smelling cane,

Exodus 30:24

and cassia (ULT) and...cassia (UST)

It is known that **cassia** is a sweet spice taken from the bark of a tree that grows in east Asia. It is slightly different than the spice cinnamon in the previous verse. See [Wikipedia](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

according to the shekel of the sanctuary (ULT) Weigh everything} according to the tabernacle standard (UST)

There were evidently shekels of more than one weight at the time. This specified which one was to be used. See how you translated this in [Exodus 30:13](#). If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. (See: [Biblical Weight](#))

a hin (ULT) four liters of (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express the quantity in modern measurements. Alternatively, to help your readers recognize that the biblical writings come from long ago when people used different measurements, you could express the amount using the ancient measurement, the **hin**, and explain the equivalent in modern measurements in a footnote. (See: [Biblical Volume](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sanctuary](#)
- [and oil of](#)
- [olive](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the tabernacle](#)
- [Also, {collect...oil](#)
- [olive](#)

ULT

²⁴ and cassia, 500, —according to the shekel of [the sanctuary](#)—and oil of [olive](#), a hin.

UST

²⁴ and six kilograms of cassia. {Weigh everything} according to [the tabernacle](#) standard. [Also](#), {collect} four liters of [olive oil](#).

Exodus 30:25

the work of an ointment mixer (ULT)

A perfume mixer must mix (UST)

This could mean: (1) Moses was to have an ointment mixer do the work. (2) Moses was to do the work himself the way an ointment mixer would do it.

an ointment mixer (ULT)

A perfume mixer (UST)

This is a person who is skilled in mixing spices and oils. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

an oil of anointment of holiness (ULT)

a sacred oil for anointing (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. Alternate translation: "a holy oil of anointment" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- an oil of
- an oil of
- anointment of
- anointment of (2)
- holiness
- holiness

Translation Words - UST

- a sacred
- a sacred
- oil
- oil
- for anointing
- for anointing (2)

ULT

²⁵ And you shall make it {into} **an oil of anointment of holiness**, an ointment from an ointment mixture, the work of an ointment mixer. It shall be **an oil of anointment of holiness**.

UST

²⁵ Make **a sacred oil for anointing** with these ingredients. A perfume mixer must mix this mixed perfume. It will be **a sacred oil for anointing**.

Exodus 30:26

And you shall anoint (ULT)

Use...to anoint (UST)

Here, **you** may refer to Moses. (See: [Forms of You](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [meeting](#)
- [the Box of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)
- [the sacred chest](#)

ULT

²⁶ And you shall anoint with it the tent of [meeting](#) and [the Box of the Testimony](#)

UST

²⁶ Use this oil to anoint [the sacred tent](#), [the sacred chest](#),

Exodus 30:27

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the lampstand
- the altar of
- incense

Translation Words - UST

- the lampstand
- altar for burning
- incense

ULT

²⁷ and the table and all of its utensils and the lampstand and its equipment and the altar of incense

UST

²⁷ the table and all the things that the priests use with it, the lampstand and all the things that the priests use to take care of it, the altar for burning incense,

Exodus 30:28

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- altar of
- burnt offerings

Translation Words - UST

- the altar
- for burning sacrifices

ULT

²⁸ and the altar of burnt offerings and all of its equipment and the basin and its stand.

UST

²⁸ and the altar for burning sacrifices, and all the things that the priests use with it, and the washbasin and its base.

Exodus 30:29

them (ULT)

those items (UST)

Here, **them** refers to the items listed in [Exodus 30:26-28](#).

holiest holy things (ULT)

so very holy that (UST)

Here, **holiest holy** means extremely or uniquely holy. If this form would not express that this item would become uniquely holy in your language you may need to find another way to express this idea. See how you translated this in [Exodus 29:37](#). Alternate translation: “a most holy thing” or “extraordinarily holy” (See: [Possession](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And you shall set...apart](#)
- [will be set apart](#)
- [holy things](#)
- [holiest](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [In that way,} you will dedicate...to me](#)
- [they will make...holy too](#)
- [so very holy that](#)
- [so very holy that](#)

ULT

²⁹ [And you shall set](#) them [apart](#), and they will be [holiest holy things](#). Anything that touches them [will be set apart](#).

UST

²⁹ [{In that way,} you will dedicate](#) those items [to me](#). They will be [so very holy that they will make](#) anything that touches them [holy too](#).

Exodus 30:30

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- you shall anoint
- Aaron
- his sons
- and...set...apart
- to be priests

Translation Words - UST

- Dedicate
- Aaron
- his sons
- to be...priests
- by anointing

ULT

³⁰ And you shall anoint Aaron and his sons and set them apart to be priests to me.

UST

³⁰ Dedicate Aaron and his sons to be my priests by anointing them.

Exodus 30:31**throughout your generations (ULT)
throughout all future generations (UST)**

Alternate translation: "all the generations of your descendants." See how you translated this in [Exodus 12:14](#).

**oil of anointment of holiness (ULT)
oil...sacred oil for anointing (UST)**

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. See how you translated this in [30:25](#). (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [oil of](#)
- [anointment of](#)
- [holiness](#)
- [throughout your generations](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [oil...oil](#)
- [sacred](#)
- [for anointing](#)
- [throughout all future generations](#)

ULT

³¹ And you shall speak to [the sons of Israel](#), saying, 'This will be my [oil of anointment of holiness](#) throughout your generations.'

UST

³¹ Tell [the Israelites](#), 'This [oil](#) will be my [sacred oil for anointing](#) throughout all future generations.'

Exodus 30:32

It shall not be poured on the body of a man (ULT)

You must not pour it on the bodies of people {who are not priests} (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "You shall not pour it on the body of a man" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

and...with its formula (ULT)

and...by mixing those same things (UST)

Alternate translation: "and ... with the same ingredients" or "and ... with the same items" or "and ... according to this recipe"

It is holy; it shall be holy to you (ULT)

This oil is reserved for me, and you must consider it sacred (UST)

The second half of this statement (**it shall be holy to you**) explains to the people the result of this oil being holy, which is, they must respect it as a holy thing. It may make more sense in some languages to move this whole statement to the beginning of the verse, because the rule about pouring on someone's body is an application of the result. Alternate translation (placed at the beginning of the verse): "Because it is sacred, you must treat it like it is sacred, therefore" (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the body of
- holy
- holy

Translation Words - UST

- the bodies of...who are not priests
- reserved for me
- sacred

ULT

³² It shall not be poured on [the body of](#) a man, and you shall not make anything like it with its formula. It is [holy](#); it shall be [holy](#) to you.

UST

³² You must not pour it on [the bodies of](#) people [{who are not priests}](#), and you must not make other oil to be like it by mixing those same things. This oil is [reserved for me](#), and you must consider it [sacred](#).

Exodus 30:33

shall be cut off from his people (ULT)

You must drive out from Israel (UST)

See how you translated **cut off** in [Exodus 12:15](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

shall be cut off from his people (ULT)

You must drive out from Israel (UST)

See how you translated **cut off** in [12:15](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [shall be cut off](#)
- [from his people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You must drive](#)
- [out from Israel](#)

ULT

³³ A man that mixes its like or that puts any of it on a stranger [shall be cut off from his people.](#)”

UST

³³ [You must drive out from Israel](#) anyone who makes a perfume like this or who puts it on anyone who is not a priest.”

Exodus 30:34

stacte, and onycha, and galbanum (ULT)

stacte, onycha, galbanum (UST)

Here is a brief description of these materials, though we really do not know exactly what they are: **stacte** is a resin from certain gum plants, **onycha** is from certain shellfish or mollusks, and **galbanum** is another kind of gum resin. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [and...frankincense](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [and...frankincense](#)

ULT

³⁴ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), “Take to yourself spices—stacte, and onycha, and galbanum—spices and pure [frankincense](#). They shall each be in equal amounts.

UST

³⁴ [Yahweh](#) also said to [Moses](#), “Collect equal parts of several sweet spices: stacte, onycha, galbanum, and pure [frankincense](#).

Exodus 30:35

And you shall make it {into} incense, an ointment, the work of an ointment mixer (ULT)

A perfume mixer must mix these...into a perfumed incense (UST)

This could mean: (1) Moses was to have a perfumer do the work or (2) Moses was to do the work himself the way a perfumer would do it. See how you translated these words in [Exodus 30:25](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [incense](#)
- [pure](#)
- [holy](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [incense](#)
- [It will be clean](#)
- [and sacred](#)

ULT

³⁵ And you shall make it {into} [incense](#), an ointment, the work of an ointment mixer: salted, [pure](#), [holy](#).

UST

³⁵ A perfume mixer must mix these, along with salt, into a perfumed [incense](#). [It will be clean and sacred](#).

Exodus 30:36

And you shall pulverize...And you shall put (ULT)

Beat...Then take...and set (UST)

Here, **you** probably refers to Moses. (See: [Forms of You](#))

before the face of (ULT)
in front of (UST)

Alternate translation: "in front of" (See: [Metonymy](#))

the testimony (ULT)
the sacred chest (UST)

Here, **testimony** probably refers to the sacred chest that contained the tablets of the law. See UST. (See: [Metonymy](#))

a holiest holy thing (ULT)
very sacred (UST)

Here, **holiest holy** means extremely or uniquely holy. If this form would not express that this item would become uniquely holy in your language you may need to find another way to express this idea. See how you translated this in [Exodus 29:37](#). Alternate translation: "a most holy thing" or "extraordinarily holy" (See: [Possession](#))

to you (ULT)
You all must consider (UST)

Here, **you** is plural and refers to Moses and all the people. If your language makes a distinction, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the testimony](#)
- [in the tent of meeting](#)
- [a...holy thing](#)
- [holiest](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [into the sacred tent](#)
- [the sacred chest](#)
- [very sacred](#)
- [very sacred](#)

ULT

³⁶ And you shall pulverize some of it until pulverized. And you shall put some of it before the face of [the testimony in the tent of meeting](#), where I will meet with you. It will be a [holiest holy thing](#) to you.

UST

³⁶ Beat some of it into a fine powder. Then take some of it [into the sacred tent](#) and set it in front of [the sacred chest](#) where I meet you. You all must consider this incense to be [very sacred](#).

Exodus 30:37**you shall...make {any} (ULT)
The people must...mix...to make (UST)**

The word **you** here refers to the people of Israel. If your language makes a distinction, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

**with its formula (ULT)
the same spices (UST)**

Alternate translation: “with the same ingredients” or “with the same items.” See how you translated this in [Exodus 30:32](#).

**It must be holy to Yahweh for you (ULT)
They must consider this incense sacred, only for me, Yahweh (UST)**

Alternate translation: “You must consider it to be most holy”

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the incense](#)
- [holy](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [this incense](#)
- [sacred](#)
- [only for me, Yahweh](#)

ULT

³⁷ [And the incense](#) that you will make, you shall not make {any} with its formula for yourselves. It must be [holy to Yahweh](#) for you.

UST

³⁷ The people must not mix the same spices to make [this incense](#) for themselves. They must consider this incense [sacred, only for me, Yahweh](#).

Exodus 30:38

to smell it (ULT)
a perfume (UST)

This could mean: (1) to enjoy the scent for oneself (2) to wear as a perfume.

shall be cut off from his people (ULT)
You must drive out from Israel (UST)

See how you translated **cut off** in [Exodus 12:15](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

shall be cut off from his people (ULT)
You must drive out from Israel (UST)

See how you translated **cut off** in [12:15](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [shall be cut off](#)
- [from his people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [You must drive out](#)
- [from Israel](#)

ULT

³⁸ A man that makes its like to smell it
[shall be cut off from his people.](#)"

UST

³⁸ [You must drive out from Israel](#)
 anyone who makes a perfume like this."

Exodus 31

Exodus 31 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- v. 1-11: Selection of the skilled craftsmen
- v. 12-17: Sabbath instruction
- v. 18: the end of Exodus' recording of the law of Moses (See: [law](#), [law of Moses](#), [law of Yahweh](#), [law of God](#))

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Sabbath

As described in this chapter, the Sabbath is more than just a day of worship or celebration. Its significance extends beyond a way to help people rest. It is a major part of the identity of the Hebrew people. (See: [Sabbath](#))

Exodus 31:1

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses

ULT

¹ And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

UST

¹ Yahweh said to Moses,

Exodus 31:2

I have called by name (ULT)

I have chosen a man named (UST)

Yahweh speaks of choosing specific people as calling them by name. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "I have chosen" (See: [Idiom](#))

Bezalel...Uri...Hur (ULT)

Bezalel...Uri...Hur (UST)

These are names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- I have called
- by name
- son of
- son of
- from the tribe of
- Judah

Translation Words - UST

- I have chosen
- a man named
- son of
- and grandson of
- from the tribe descended from
- Judah

ULT

² "See, I have called by name Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, from the tribe of Judah.

UST

² "Pay attention. I have chosen a man named Bezalel, son of Uri and grandson of Hur, from the tribe descended from Judah.

Exodus 31:3

And I have filled him with the Spirit of God (ULT)

I will cause my spirit to teach him (UST)

Yahweh speaks of giving Bezalel his spirit as if Bezalel were a container and God's spirit were a liquid. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "I have given my spirit to Bezalel" (See: [Metaphor](#))

with skill (ULT)

wisely (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **skill** in another way. Alternate translation: "so he can work skillfully" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

and with understanding (ULT)

and intelligently (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **understanding** in another way. Alternate translation: "and so he can understand his work" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

and with knowledge (ULT)

to know how to make (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **knowledge** in another way. Alternate translation: "and so he knows his work well" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

and with all kinds of craftsmanship (ULT)

all kinds of fine goods (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **craftsmanship** in another way. Alternate translation: "and for making all kinds of crafts" or "and so that he can make all kinds of things" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [with the Spirit of](#)
- [God](#)
- [and with understanding](#)
- [and with knowledge](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [my spirit](#)
- [my spirit](#)
- [to know how to make](#)

ULT

³ And I have filled him [with the Spirit of God](#), with skill [and with understanding](#) [and with knowledge](#) and with all kinds of craftsmanship

UST

³ I will cause [my spirit](#) to teach him [to know how to make](#) all kinds of fine goods wisely [and intelligently](#).

- and intelligently

Exodus 31:4

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- in gold
- and in silver
- and in bronze

Translation Words - UST

- in gold
- silver
- and bronze

ULT

⁴ to design designs, to work in gold and in silver and in bronze

UST

⁴ He can engrave skillful designs in gold, silver, and bronze.

Exodus 31:5

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- [precious stones](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [jewels](#)

ULT

⁵ and in carving of [precious stones](#) for setting and in carving of wood, to do all kinds of craftsmanship.

UST

⁵ He can cut [jewels](#) and enclose them in tiny gold settings. He can carve things from wood and do other skilled work.

Exodus 31:6

Oholiab...Ahisamak (ULT)

Oholiab...Ahisamach (UST)

These are names of men. (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

And I have put skill into the hearts of all of the skilled of heart (ULT)

I have also given special ability to other skilled men (UST)

God speaks of making people able to make things as if he were putting the ability into their hearts. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "I have given skill to all who are wise" or "I have made all who are wise able to make things well" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [son of](#)
- [from the tribe of](#)
- [Dan](#)
- [And...into the hearts of](#)
- [heart](#)
- [the skilled of](#)
- [I have commanded you](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [son of](#)
- [from the tribe of](#)
- [Dan](#)
- [also](#)
- [to other skilled men](#)
- [to other skilled men](#)
- [I have commanded you to make](#)

ULT

⁶ And behold, I have given with him Oholiab [son of Ahisamak, from the tribe of Dan](#). And I have put skill [into the hearts of all of the skilled of heart](#), and they shall make all that [I have commanded you](#):

UST

⁶ Pay attention! I have also appointed Oholiab [son of Ahisamach, from the tribe of Dan](#), to work with him. I have [also given special ability to other skilled men](#) in order that they can make all the things that [I have commanded you to make](#).

Exodus 31:7

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the tent of...meeting
- the tent
- the Box of the Testimony
- the atonement lid

Translation Words - UST

- The sacred tent
- the sacred tent
- the sacred chest
- with its lid on top of it

ULT

⁷ the tent of meeting and the Box of the Testimony, and the atonement lid that is on it and all of the furniture of the tent,

UST

⁷ Those things include: The sacred tent; the sacred chest with its lid on top of it; all the other things that will be inside the sacred tent,

Exodus 31:8

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the...lampstand
- the altar of

Translation Words - UST

- the...lampstand
- the altar for burning incense

ULT

⁸ the table and its utensils and the pure lampstand and all its equipment and the altar of incense

UST

⁸ the table and all the things that the priests use with it, the pure {gold} lampstand and all the things that the priests use to take care of it, the altar for burning incense,

Exodus 31:9

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the altar of
- burnt offerings

Translation Words - UST

- the altar
- for burning sacrifices

ULT

⁹ and the altar of burnt offerings and all its equipment and the basin and its base

UST

⁹ the altar for burning sacrifices and all the things the priests use with it, and the washbasin with its base;

Exodus 31:10

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- holiness
- for Aaron
- the priest
- to {be} priests
- his sons

Translation Words - UST

- sacred
- for Aaron
- his sons
- to wear when they work as priests
- to wear when they work as priests

ULT

¹⁰ and the finely woven clothing and the clothing of holiness for Aaron the priest and the clothing of his sons to {be} priests

UST

¹⁰ the beautiful, sacred vestments for Aaron and his sons to wear when they work as priests;

Exodus 31:11

They shall make (ULT)

The craftsmen must make (UST)

They refers to Bezalel and Oholiab as well as the unnamed other “skilled of heart” (talented craftsmen) referred to in [verse 2](#) and [verse 6](#). (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the oil of](#)
- [anointing](#)
- [the incense of](#)
- [for the sanctuary](#)
- [I have commanded you](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the oil](#)
- [for anointing](#)
- [incense](#)
- [for the Holy Place](#)
- [I have told you that they should do](#)

ULT

¹¹ and [the oil of anointing](#) and [the incense of fragrance for the sanctuary](#). They shall make according to all that I have commanded you.”

UST

¹¹ [the oil for anointing](#), and the sweet-smelling [incense for the Holy Place](#). The craftsmen must make all these things exactly as [I have told you that they should do](#).”

Exodus 31:12

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses

ULT

¹² And Yahweh said to Moses, saying,

UST

¹² Yahweh said to Moses,

Exodus 31:13

saying (ULT)**Tell (UST)**

A second-level direct quotation starts after **saying**. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. There are multiple possible endings for this quotation, which will be addressed in later verses. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

Surely you shall keep my Sabbaths (ULT)
Constantly obey {my instructions regarding}
the Sabbath days {for rest (UST)}

Yahweh uses the phrase **keep my Sabbaths** as a metaphor for obeying his instructions about the Sabbath, as if it was a precious thing they should guard. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "You must certainly obey Yahweh's instructions about the Sabbath" (See: [Metaphor](#))

throughout your generations (ULT)
and your descendants, throughout all future generations (UST)

Alternate translation: "through all the generations of your descendants." See how you translated this in [Exodus 12:14](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the sons of
- Israel
- you shall keep
- my Sabbaths
- is a sign
- throughout your generations
- so that you may know
- I am Yahweh
- who sets you apart

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- obey
- my instructions regarding} the Sabbath days...for rest
- Those days will remind
- Those days will remind
- and your descendants, throughout all future generations
- I, Yahweh
- have dedicated you {to be my people

ULT

¹³ "And you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying: 'Surely you shall keep my Sabbaths, for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations so that you may know that I am Yahweh, who sets you apart.'

UST

¹³ "Tell the Israelites, 'Constantly obey {my instructions regarding} the Sabbath days {for rest}. Those days will remind me and you and your descendants, throughout all future generations, that I, Yahweh, have dedicated you {to be my people}.'

Exodus 31:14

to you (ULT)

you must regard them as dedicated to me (UST)

One possible ending place for the second-level quotation that began in the previous verse is after **to you**. The rest of Yahweh's instructions to Moses in this section do not use the second person to address Israel directly, so you may close the second-level quotation here. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

shall surely be put to death (ULT)

You must kill (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "you must surely kill" or "you must surely execute" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

shall be cut off (ULT)

You must remove (UST)

See how you translated **cut off** in [12:15](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Sabbath](#)
- [is holy](#)
- [The profaner of it](#)
- [shall...be put to death](#)
- [shall be cut off](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [my rules about the Sabbath days for rest](#)
- [you must regard them as dedicated to me](#)
- [You must kill](#)
- [people who disrespect these days](#)
- [You must remove](#)

ULT

¹⁴ And you shall keep [the Sabbath](#), for it [is holy](#) to you.' [The profaner of it](#) shall surely [be put to death](#), for every worker of work on it, that person [shall be cut off](#) from his people.

UST

¹⁴ You must obey [my rules about the Sabbath days for rest](#), because [you must regard them as dedicated to me](#). [You must kill people who disrespect these days](#) by working on them. [You must remove](#) them from Israel.

Exodus 31:15

six (ULT) for six days {each week (UST)}

Alternate translation: "6" (See: [Numbers](#))

but the seventh day (ULT) but the seventh day {of each week (UST)}

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "but day 7" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

is a Sabbath of Sabbath (ULT) is a solemn Sabbath-rest day (UST)

Alternate translation: "a Sabbath of complete rest"

shall surely be put to death (ULT) You must execute (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "you must surely kill" or "you must surely execute" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- days
- but...day
- on...day
- is a Sabbath of
- Sabbath
- the Sabbath
- holy
- to Yahweh
- shall...be put to death

Translation Words - UST

- for six days...each week
- but the seventh day {of each week
- on a Sabbath day {of rest
- is a solemn Sabbath-rest day
- is a solemn Sabbath-rest day
- on a Sabbath day...of rest
- dedicated
- to me, Yahweh
- You must execute

ULT

¹⁵ Work shall be done six days, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of Sabbath, holy to Yahweh. Every worker of work on the Sabbath day shall surely be put to death.

UST

¹⁵ You may work for six days {each week}, but the seventh day {of each week} is a solemn Sabbath-rest day, dedicated to me, Yahweh. You must execute anyone who does any work on a Sabbath day {of rest}.

Exodus 31:16

And the sons of Israel shall keep the Sabbath (ULT)

The Israelites must respect the Sabbath {days of rest (UST)}

Yahweh uses the phrase **keep my Sabbaths** as a metaphor for obeying his instructions about the Sabbath, as if it was a precious thing they should guard. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: "And the sons of Israel must obey Yahweh's instructions about the Sabbath" (See: [Metaphor](#))

throughout their generations (ULT)

throughout all future generations (UST)

See how you translated "throughout their people's generations" in [Exodus 12:42](#). Alternate translation: "; they and all the generations of their descendants must observe it."

A covenant of eternity (ULT)

This agreement never ends (UST)

Alternate translation: "A covenant that will always exist" or "A lasting covenant"

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [the Sabbath](#)
- [the Sabbath](#)
- [throughout their generations](#)
- [A covenant of](#)
- [eternity](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The Israelites](#)
- [The Israelites](#)
- [the Sabbath...days of rest](#)
- [on them](#)
- [throughout all future generations](#)
- [This agreement](#)
- [never ends](#)

ULT

¹⁶ And [the sons of Israel](#) shall keep [the Sabbath](#) to celebrate [the Sabbath](#) throughout their generations. A covenant of eternity

UST

¹⁶ [The Israelites](#) must respect [the Sabbath {days of rest}](#), and rest on them throughout all future generations. This agreement never ends

Exodus 31:17

and was refreshed (ULT) and recuperated (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "and he refreshed himself" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the sons of
- Israel
- is a sign
- forever
- days
- and on...day
- Yahweh
- heaven
- earth

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- will remind you
- forever
- I, Yahweh
- the heavens
- the earth
- days
- and on...day

ULT

¹⁷ is between me and the sons of Israel. It is a sign forever, for in six days Yahweh made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed."

UST

¹⁷ between me and the Israelites. It will remind you forever that I, Yahweh, created the heavens and the earth in six days, and on the seventh day I stopped doing that work and recuperated."

Exodus 31:18

**written by the finger of God (ULT)
on which he had engraved...with his own
fingers (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "which Yahweh wrote on with his own hand" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [God](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [him](#)
- [he](#)

ULT

¹⁸ And as he finished speaking with him on the mountain of Sinai, he gave to [Moses](#) the two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of [God](#).

UST

¹⁸ When Yahweh finished talking with Moses on the top of Mount Sinai, he gave [him](#) the two stone slabs on which [he](#) had engraved his commandments with his own fingers.

Exodus 32

Exodus 32 General Notes

Structure and formatting

The events in verses 1-6 of this chapter occurred while Moses spoke with God and therefore happened sometime during the events recorded between Exodus 24:15 and Exodus 31. (See: [Connect — Simultaneous Time Relationship](#))

- v. 1-6: The people ask Aaron to make them a god and he makes the golden calf
- v. 7-29 - Yahweh and Moses' reaction
 - v. 11-14 - Moses intercedes for the people
- v. 30-34 - Moses intercedes for the people

Some translations set each line of poetry farther to the right than the rest of the text to make it easier to read. The ULT does this with the poetry in 32:18.

Special Concepts in this Chapter

Idolatry

The making of the golden calf was considered a form of idolatry. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Exodus 32:1

the people saw

This chapter begins with a major scene shift, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

And the people saw (ULT) When the people saw (UST)

Here, the word **saw** is used to indicate understanding or realization of a situation. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "And the people realized" (See: [Metaphor](#))

and the people gathered themselves (ULT) they went (UST)

This means the people both decided to gather and were the ones gathering. Use a way that is natural in your language to indicate this. (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

Arise (ULT) Get up (UST)

Arise strengthens the force of the command following it. The people were demanding that Aaron make an idol for them. It did not necessarily mean that he should literally stand up. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. (See: [Idiom](#))

shall go before our faces (ULT) will lead us on our journey (UST)

Here, **before our faces** means ahead of. The Israelites want idols to lead them. Alternate translation: "shall lead us" or "shall be our leader" (See: [Metonymy](#))

for this Moses (ULT) We do...know...that...Moses (UST)

People showed disrespect by putting the word **this** before his name, as if Moses were someone they did not know and could not trust. They were creating social distance between him and themselves. When translating, use a form in your language that communicates the same sense of disassociation between people.

Translation Words - ULT

- the people
- the people
- Moses
- Moses

ULT

¹ And **the people** saw that **Moses** delayed in coming down from the mountain, and **the people** gathered themselves around **Aaron** and said to him, "**Arise**, make **gods** for us that shall go before our faces, for this **Moses**, the man who brought us up **from the land of Egypt**, **we do not know** what has happened to him."

UST

¹ **Moses** stayed on top of the mountain for a long time. When **the people** saw that he was not returning, **they** went to **Aaron** and said to him, "**Get up** and make us **gods** who will lead us on our journey. **We do not know** what happened to that man **Moses**, who brought us here **out of Egypt**."

- Aaron
- Arise
- gods
- from the land of
- Egypt
- we do...know

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- Moses
- the people
- they
- Egypt
- Aaron
- Get up
- gods
- We do...know
- out of

Exodus 32:2

and bring them (ULT)

and bring them (UST)

Here, **them** refers to the golden rings. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- gold
- your sons

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- and your children's
- gold earrings

ULT

² And Aaron said to them, "Tear off the rings of gold that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me."

UST

² Aaron replied, "Take your wives' and your children's gold earrings from them, and bring them to me."

Exodus 32:3

all the people (ULT)

the people (UST)

This refers to all the people who rejected Moses as their leader and Yahweh as their God. Later parts of the text reveal that there were people still faithful to Moses and Yahweh and that the Israelites had a great deal more gold. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression from your language that means many or most. Alternate translation: "many people" (See: [Hyperbole](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the people](#)
- [gold](#)
- [Aaron](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the people](#)
- [gold earrings](#)
- [Aaron](#)

ULT

³ And all [the people](#) tore the rings of [gold](#) off themselves that were on their ears and brought them to [Aaron](#).

UST

³ So [the people](#) took off all their own [gold earrings](#) and brought them to [Aaron](#).

Exodus 32:4

and fashioned it with a tool, and he made a calf of molten metal (ULT)

he {melted it in a fire.} He molded the softened gold and made {a statue that looked like} a young bull (UST)

Most likely this means that Aaron melted the gold and poured it into a mold that had the shape of a calf. When the gold cooled and became hard, he removed the mold, and the hardened gold had the shape of a calf. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

And they said (ULT)

The people {saw it and} said (UST)

The identity of the speakers, referred to as **they**, remains unknown.

Alternate translation: "And someone said" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

These are your gods...brought you up (ULT)

This is the Israelite god...rescued us (UST)

Because the speaker of this sentence is unknown and mentioned in the plural, it is possible that it is the people speaking. In that case, it would be possible for a translation to use the first person rather than second person here.

Alternate translation: "These are our gods ... brought us up" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

These are your gods (ULT)

This is the Israelite god (UST)

In the text, there only appears to be one "god" (the golden calf idol) presented to Israel. If it would be clearer to your audience, you may consider translating **these ... gods** as singular. Alternate translation: "this is your god"

Translation Words - ULT

- a calf of
- gods
- Israel
- from the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- a statue that looked like} a young bull
- is the Israelite god
- is the Israelite god
- from
- Egypt

ULT

⁴ And he took it from their hand, and fashioned it with a tool, and he made a calf of molten metal. And they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt."

UST

⁴ After he received the gold, he {melted it in a fire.} He molded the softened gold and made {a statue that looked like} a young bull. The people {saw it and} said, "This is the Israelite god who rescued us from Egypt!"

Exodus 32:5

And Aaron saw (ULT) When Aaron saw {how the people reacted (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express what he saw explicitly. "Aaron saw what the people did" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

before the face of it (ULT) in front of the bull (UST)

Here, **before its face** means in front of. Alternate translation: "in front of it" (See: [Metonymy](#))

before the face of it (ULT) in front of the bull (UST)

Here, **it** is the golden bull-calf. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "in front of the bull-calf idol" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- Aaron
- an altar
- and...proclaimed
- will be a festival
- to Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- Then he announced
- an altar
- Then he announced
- we will have a celebration
- to {honor} Yahweh

ULT

⁵ And Aaron saw, and he built an altar before the face of it, and Aaron proclaimed and said, "Tomorrow will be a festival to Yahweh."

UST

⁵ When Aaron saw {how the people reacted}, he built an altar in front of the bull. Then he announced, "Tomorrow we will have a celebration to {honor} Yahweh!"

Exodus 32:6

to play (ULT) and partied (UST)

This word may imply drunken and sexual sin (for a sexual implication see [Genesis 26:8](#)). However, the only actions mentioned in the text are singing (v. 18) and dancing (v. 19), so translators should avoid using a term that is overly suggestive. Alternate translation: "to revel" (See: [Euphemism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [burnt offerings](#)
- [peace offerings](#)
- [the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the...people](#)
- [killed animals} and burnt them as sacrifices on the altar](#)
- [sacrifices to restore fellowship with others](#)

ULT

⁶ And they arose early the next day and offered [burnt offerings](#) and brought [peace offerings](#). And [the people](#) sat down to eat and to drink and got up to play.

UST

⁶ So early the next morning the [people](#) {[killed animals](#)} and burnt them as [sacrifices on the altar](#). They also brought [sacrifices to restore fellowship with others](#). Then they sat down to eat and to drink {[wine](#)}. Then they got up and partied.

Exodus 32:7

to carouse in wild celebration

Here there is a scene shift back to the top of the mountain with Moses and Yahweh, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

have corrupted themselves (ULT) are acting perversely (UST)

Here, **themselves** is used to indicate that the Israelites actions made the Israelites corrupt. Use a way that is natural in your language to indicate this. Alternate translation: "have acted corruptly" (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- your people
- from the land of
- Egypt
- have corrupted themselves

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- your people, the ones
- from
- Egypt
- are acting perversely

ULT

⁷ And Yahweh spoke to Moses, "Go! Descend! For your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.

UST

⁷ Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Go down from the mountain, because your people, the ones that you brought up here from Egypt, are acting perversely!

Exodus 32:8

They have quickly turned from the way that I commanded them (ULT)
They have already stopped obeying my commands about how to live (UST)

Here God speaks of the people disobeying what he commanded them as if he had told them to walk on a certain road, and they left that road. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "They have quickly stopped doing what I commanded them to do" or "They have quickly stopped obeying what I commanded them to do" (See: [Metaphor](#))

These are your gods, Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt (ULT)
This is the Israelite god who rescued us from Egypt (UST)

This is a second-level direct quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this by marking it with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. (See: [Quote Markings](#))

These are your gods, Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt (ULT)
This is the Israelite god who rescued us from Egypt (UST)

You may want to translate this as an indirect quotation in order to reduce the layers of quotations in this passage. Alternative translation: "that these are your gods, Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt" (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

These are your gods (ULT)
This is the...god (UST)

In the text, there only appears to be one "god" (the golden calf idol) presented to Israel. If it would be clearer to your audience, you may consider translating **these ... gods** as singular. See how you translated this in [verse 4](#). Alternate translation: "This is your god"

your gods...brought you up (ULT)
the...god...rescued us (UST)

Because the speaker of this sentence is unknown and mentioned in the plural, it is possible that it is the people speaking. In that case, it would be possible for a translation to use the first person rather than second person here. See how you translated this in [verse 4](#). Alternate translation: "our gods ... brought us up" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [I commanded them](#)

ULT

⁸ They have quickly turned from the way that **I commanded them**. They have made **a calf** of molten metal for themselves **and have bowed** before it **and sacrificed** to it. And they have said, "These are **your gods, Israel**, that brought you up **from the land of Egypt**!"

UST

⁸ They have already stopped obeying **my commands** about how to live. **From melted gold**, they have made **a statue {that looks like} a young bull**. They have **worshiped** it **and offered sacrifices** to it. They are saying, "This is the **Israelite god** who rescued us **from Egypt**!"

- a calf
- and have bowed
- and sacrificed
- your gods
- Israel
- from the land of
- Egypt

Translation Words - UST

- my commands
- From melted gold...a statue {that looks like} a young bull
- They have worshiped
- and offered sacrifices
- Israelite
- the...god
- from Egypt
- from Egypt

Exodus 32:9

is a people hard of neck (ULT) obstinate they are (UST)

Yahweh speaks of the people being rebellious as if they had hard necks. The image comes from an animal that does not want to go the way his master is trying to direct him (not going in the way God commanded). If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "is a rebellious people" (See: [Metaphor](#))

this...it (ULT) these...they are (UST)

The word **people** is a collective noun, so the pronouns referring to the people are singular. You may use plural pronouns if that is the normal usage in your language. Alternate translation: "these ... they" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [people](#)
- [is a people](#)
- [hard of neck](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [people](#)
- [they are](#)
- [obstinate](#)

ULT

⁹ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "I have seen this [people](#), and behold, it is a [people hard of neck](#)."

UST

⁹ Then [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "I have been observing these [people](#). Look at how [obstinate they are](#)."

Exodus 32:10

So now (ULT)

Because of this (UST)

So now is used here to mark that Yahweh's next statements are a result of what he has said in the previous verses. Alternate translation: "Therefore" (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

And let my nose burn against them (ULT)

I am very angry with them (UST)

This is an idiom meaning that Yahweh is angry. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "And let me be angry with them"(See: [Idiom](#))

you (ULT)

you {and your descendants} (UST)

Here, **you** refers to Moses. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- and I will destroy them
- into a...nation

Translation Words - UST

- so I am going to destroy them
- a...nation

ULT

¹⁰ So now, leave me alone! And let my nose burn against them, **and I will destroy them**. And I will make you **into a great nation**."

UST

¹⁰ Because of this, I am very angry with them, **so I am going to destroy them**. Do not try to stop me! Then I will cause you {and your descendants} to become a great **nation**."

Exodus 32:11

Yahweh, why does your nose burn against your people whom you have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a strong hand (ULT)

Yahweh, please do not be angry with your people. These are the people whom you saved from Egypt with great power and mighty works (UST)

Moses used this question to try to persuade Yahweh not to be so angry with his people. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. Alternate translation: "Yahweh, do not let your nose burn against your people whom you have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a strong hand." (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

does your nose burn against your people (ULT)
be angry with your people. These are the people (UST)

This is an idiom meaning that Yahweh is angry with his people. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "are you angry with your people" (See: [Idiom](#))

with great power and with a strong hand (ULT)
with great power and mighty works (UST)

These two phrases share similar meanings and are combined for emphasis. If doubling in this way would not convey emphasis in your language, you will need to find a way to translate it that does give emphasis. Alternate translation: "using your very strong power" (See: [Doublet](#))

and with a strong hand (ULT)
and mighty works (UST)

Here, **hand** represents God's actions or works. See how you translated this in [Exodus 6:1](#). Alternate translation: "and with powerful works" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [of Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [his God](#)
- [against your people](#)
- [from the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [with...power](#)
- [strong](#)

ULT

¹¹ But [Moses](#) entreated the face of [Yahweh his God](#). And he said, "Yahweh, why does your nose burn [against your people](#) whom you have brought out [from the land of Egypt](#) with great [power](#) and with a [strong](#) hand?"

UST

¹¹ But [Moses](#) pleaded with [his God](#), [Yahweh](#), and said, "Yahweh, please do not be angry with [your people](#). [These are the people](#) whom you saved [from Egypt](#) with great [power and mighty works](#)!"

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- his God
- with...Yahweh
- Yahweh
- your people. These are the people
- from Egypt
- from Egypt
- with...power
- and mighty works

Exodus 32:12

Why should the Egyptians say, saying, ‘He brought them out with evil intent, to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from on the face of the ground (ULT)

If you destroy them} the Egyptians will say that you had a wicked plan. {They will say} you led the Israelites out to the mountains to kill them and to remove them entirely from the earth (UST)

Moses used this question to try to persuade God not to destroy his people. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way.

Alternate translation: If you destroy your people, the Egyptians might say, ‘He brought them out with evil intent, to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from on the face of the ground.’ (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

should the Egyptians say, saying, ‘He brought them out with evil intent, to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from on the face of the ground (ULT)

the Egyptians will say that you had a wicked plan. {They will say} you led the Israelites out to the mountains to kill them and to remove them entirely from the earth (UST)

After **saying**, this is a second-level quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. However, you may want to translate this as an indirect quotation in order to reduce the layers of quotations in this passage. Alternative translation: “the Egyptians say that you brought them out with evil intent, to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from on the face of the ground” (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

from on the face of the ground (ULT)
entirely from the earth (UST)

Here, **face** means “surface.” Alternate translation: “from the surface of the land” or “from the earth” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Turn from your burning nose (ULT)
Stop being angry (UST)

Alternate translation: “Stop your burning anger” or “Stop being so angry”

ULT

¹² Why should [the Egyptians](#) say, saying, ‘He brought them out [with evil intent, to kill](#) them in the mountains [and to destroy them](#) from on the face of [the ground](#)’? Turn from your burning nose [and repent](#) from [the evil to your people](#).

UST

¹² {If you destroy them} [the Egyptians](#) will say that [you had a wicked plan](#). {They will say} you led the Israelites out to the mountains [to kill them and to remove them entirely from the earth](#). Stop being angry [and relent from punishing your people](#).

Turn from your burning nose and repent from the evil to your people (ULT) Stop being angry and relent from punishing your people (UST)

Here, Yahweh's anger (burning nose) and plan to punish the people are spoken of as things that he could turn away from and repent of (repentance also means to turn from). This imagery may not translate into your language, and you may need to use a different expression. Alternate translation: "Calm down, and please do not stay determined to do evil to your people" (See: [Idiom](#))

from your burning nose (ULT) angry (UST)

This is an idiom that means anger. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "from your terrible anger" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the Egyptians
- with evil intent
- the evil
- to kill
- and to destroy them
- the ground
- and repent
- to your people

Translation Words - UST

- the Egyptians
- you had a wicked plan
- from punishing
- to kill
- and to remove them
- entirely from the earth
- and relent
- your people

Exodus 32:13**Remember (ULT)****Recall (UST)**

Alternate translation: "Think about"

you swore (ULT)**You solemnly promised (UST)**

Alternate translation: "you made an oath"

and I will give to your descendants all this land of which I have spoken (ULT)
descendants...I will give those...all this land that I am talking about (UST)

That is, the land of Canaan.

Translation Words - ULT

- Abraham
- and Isaac
- land
- forever
- and Israel
- your servants
- you swore
- I will cause...to increase
- your descendants
- to your descendants
- the heavens

Translation Words - UST

- your servants
- Abraham
- land
- It will be their land forever
- Isaac
- and Jacob
- You solemnly promised
- I will enable you to have as many
- descendants
- descendants...those
- the sky

ULT

¹³ Remember Abraham and Isaac and Israel, your servants that you swore to them by yourself and spoke to them, 'I will cause your descendants to increase as the stars of the heavens, and I will give to your descendants all this land of which I have spoken. And they will inherit it forever.'

UST

¹³ Recall your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You solemnly promised them, 'I will enable you to have as many descendants as the stars that are in the sky. I will give those descendants all this land that I am talking about. It will be their land forever.'

Exodus 32:14

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Then...repented
- the evil
- to his people

Translation Words - UST

- So...relented
- Yahweh...He
- did not punish
- his people

ULT

¹⁴ Then Yahweh repented from the evil that he had spoken to do to his people.

UST

¹⁴ So Yahweh relented. He did not punish his people as he had said he would do.

Exodus 32:15

The tablets were written on both their sides, on this {side} and on that {side} they were written (ULT)

on which Yahweh had inscribed his commandments...He had inscribed on both sides of the slabs, both front and back (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "Yahweh had written on both the sides of the tablets, on this side and on that side he had written." (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [the testimony](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [on which Yahweh had inscribed his commandments](#)

ULT

¹⁵ And [Moses](#) turned and went down from the mountain and the two tablets of [the testimony](#) {were} in his hand. The tablets were written on both their sides, on this {side} and on that {side} they were written.

UST

¹⁵ Then [Moses](#) turned around and went down the mountain. He was carrying in his hands the two stone slabs [on which Yahweh had inscribed his commandments](#). He had inscribed on both sides of the slabs, both front and back.

Exodus 32:16

**And the tablets, they {were} the work of God.
And the writing, it {was} the writing of God
(ULT)**

**As for the slabs, God had made them. As for
the inscription, God had inscribed it (UST)**

These two sentences have an unusual structure that places emphasis on **tablets** and **writing**. If your language would emphasize these topics in a different way than moving them to the beginning of the sentence, follow your language's natural usage for emphasis. Alternate translation: "And the tablets themselves were the work of God. And the writing itself was the writing of God" (See: [Information Structure](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- God
- God

Translation Words - UST

- God
- God

ULT

¹⁶ And the tablets, they {were} the work of God. And the writing, it {was} the writing of God, {it} was engraved on the tablets.

UST

¹⁶ As for the slabs, God had made them. As for the inscription, God had inscribed it. He had engraved on the slabs.

Exodus 32:17

Joshua (ULT)

Joshua (UST)

Joshua was last mentioned in [Exodus 24:13](#). The text does not say if he was on top of the mountain with Moses or if he waited for him part way up. Consider if your language will need to re-introduce Joshua in any way here. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Joshua](#)
- [the people](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Joshua](#)
- [the people](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And [Joshua](#) heard the noise of [the people](#) in its shouting, and he said to [Moses](#), "{There is} the noise of war in the camp."

UST

¹⁷ [Joshua](#) heard the sound of [the people](#) shouting. So he said to [Moses](#), "There is a noise in the camp that sounds like the noise of a battle!"

Exodus 32:18

**There is not the sound of singing of strength,
and there is not the sound of singing of
weakness, the sound of singing I am hearing
(ULT)**

**That is not a victory shout; or a defeated cry. I
hear singing (UST)**

These lines are widely considered to be poetic. It is not clear why a poetic form is used here. In some languages it may not be appropriate to convey this response in poetic form, in which case another form may be used. (See: [Poetry](#))

**There is not the sound of singing of strength, and there is not the sound of
singing of weakness, the sound of singing I am hearing (ULT)**

That is not a victory shout; or a defeated cry. I hear singing (UST)

The poetic form here is parallelism in the repetition of **sound of singing**. If it would be unclear to say that Moses heard **the sound of singing** in the third line after saying he didn't hear the sound of singing twice before, something more like the more contrastive UST may be followed. (See: [Parallelism](#))

the sound of singing I am hearing (ULT)
I hear singing (UST)

If it is unclear to say that Moses hears **the sound of singing** after twice saying he didn't hear that, you may want to make the type of singing explicit. Consider referring to your translation of the last word of [verse 6](#) (to play in the ULT). Alternate translation: "the sound of playful singing I hear" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

ULT

¹⁸ But Moses said, "There is not the sound of singing of strength, and there is not the sound of singing of weakness, the sound of singing I am hearing."

UST

¹⁸ But Moses said, "That is not a victory shout; or a defeated cry. I hear singing!"

Exodus 32:19**and the nose of Moses burned (ULT)
he became very angry (UST)**

This is an idiom for being angry. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "and Moses was very angry" (See: [Idiom](#))

**under (ULT)
at the base of (UST)**

Alternate translation: "at the bottom of"

Translation Words - ULT

- [the calf](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the statue of the bull](#)
- [he](#)

ULT

¹⁹ And it happened, as he approached to the camp, that he saw [the calf](#) and dancing, and the nose of [Moses](#) burned, and he threw the tablets from his hands and shattered them under the mountain.

UST

¹⁹ As soon as Moses came close to the camp and saw [the statue of the bull](#) and the people dancing, [he](#) became very angry. He flung the stone slabs down {onto the ground} at the base of the mountain, and they broke completely.

Exodus 32:20

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the calf
- in the fire
- the water
- the sons of
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- the statue of the bull
- in the fire
- the water
- the Israelites
- the Israelites

ULT

²⁰ And he took the calf that they had made and burned {it} in the fire and ground {it} until it was fine and scattered {it} on the face of the water and caused the sons of Israel to drink {it}.

UST

²⁰ Then he took the statue of the bull that they had made and melted it in the fire. {When it cooled,} he ground it into fine powder. Then he threw the powder on top of the water and forced the Israelites to drink it.

Exodus 32:21

And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you, that you have brought a great sin on them (ULT)

Then Moses said to Aaron, “What did these people do to you that you caused them to sin so much (UST)

Moses' question is a second-level quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. However, you may want to translate this as an indirect quotation in order to reduce the layers of quotations in this passage. Alternate translation: “Then Moses asked Aaron what the people did to him, that he had brought such a great sin on them” (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

ULT

²¹ And [Moses](#) said to [Aaron](#), “What did this [people](#) do to you, that you have brought a great [sin](#) on them?”

UST

²¹ Then [Moses](#) said to [Aaron](#), “What did these [people](#) do to you that you caused them [to sin](#) so much?”

that you have brought a great sin on them (ULT)
that you caused them to sin so much (UST)

Moses spoke of causing people to **sin** as if sin were an object and Aaron put it **on them**. Alternate translation: “that you have caused them to sin greatly” (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [people](#)
- [a...sin](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [people](#)
- [to sin](#)

Exodus 32:22

Do not let {your} nose burn (ULT) Please do not be angry with me (UST)

This is an idiom for anger. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "Do not be angry" (See: [Idiom](#))

that it {is/was} in evil (ULT) how likely...these people are...to do wicked things (UST)

This is probably an idiom that could mean (1) that the people are prone to evil or (2) that the people were in trouble (that is, they felt troubled because of not having contact with God). If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "that they are set on evil" (See: [Idiom](#))

it {is/was} (ULT) these people are (UST)

Here, **it** is used because **people** is grammatically singular in Hebrew. Alternate translation: "they are" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Aaron](#)
- [my lord](#)
- [know](#)
- [the people](#)
- [in evil](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Aaron](#)
- [my lord](#)
- [know](#)
- [these people are](#)
- [to do wicked things](#)

ULT

²² And [Aaron](#) said, "Do not let {your} nose burn, [my lord](#). You [know the people](#), that it {is/was} [in evil](#)."

UST

²² [Aaron](#) replied, "Please do not be angry with me, [my lord](#). You [know](#) how likely [these people are to do wicked things](#)."

Exodus 32:23

Make for us a god that will go before our faces. As for this Moses, the man that brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has happened to him (ULT)

Make us a god to lead us because we do not know what has happened to that Moses guy who brought us out of Egypt (UST)

This is a second-level quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

this Moses, the man (ULT)

that Moses guy (UST)

People showed disrespect by putting the word **this** before his name, as if Moses were someone they did not know and could not trust. They were creating social distance between him and themselves. When translating, use a form in your language that communicates the same sense of disassociation between people. See how you translated this in [verse 1](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [a god](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [from the land of](#)
- [Egypt](#)
- [we do...know](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a god](#)
- [we do...know](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [out of Egypt](#)
- [out of Egypt](#)

ULT

²³ And they said to me, 'Make for us [a god](#) that will go before our faces. As for this [Moses](#), the man that brought us up [from the land of Egypt](#), [we do not know](#) what has happened to him.'

UST

²³ They said to me, 'Make us [a god](#) to lead us because [we do not know](#) what has happened to that [Moses](#) guy who brought us [out of Egypt!](#)'

Exodus 32:24

And I said to them, 'Whoever has gold, take it off yourself (ULT)

So I said to them, 'Everyone who is wearing {pieces of} gold {jewelry} should take them off (UST)

Whoever has gold, take it off yourself is a second-level quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. However, this can be stated as an indirect quote. Alternate translation: "So I told them that whoever had any gold should take it off" (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

take it off yourself (ULT)
should take them off (UST)

Aaron instructs people to take their own gold off. Alternate translation: "you take off your own" (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

and I threw it in the fire, and this calf came out (ULT)
I threw them into the fire, and out came this statue of a young bull (UST)

Aaron claims an unusual sequence of events here. The translation should surprise an audience unfamiliar with the story. He states that the result of simply throwing gold in the fire is the appearance (by its own power or volition it seems) of the calf. This is a lie. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [gold](#)
- [in the fire](#)
- [calf](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [is wearing {pieces of} gold {jewelry}](#)
- [into the fire](#)
- [statue of a young bull](#)

ULT

²⁴ And I said to them, 'Whoever has [gold](#), take it off yourself.' And they gave {it} to me, and I threw it [in the fire](#), and this [calf](#) came out."

UST

²⁴ So I said to them, 'Everyone who [is wearing {pieces of} gold {jewelry}](#) should take them off.' So they {took them off and} gave them to me. I threw them [into the fire](#), and out came this [statue of a young bull!](#)"

Exodus 32:25**was let loose (ULT)****had allowed...to act wildly (UST)**

Alternate translation: "were behaving wildly" or "were not controlling themselves"

that it was let loose, for Aaron had let it loose (ULT)**that Aaron had allowed...the people...to act wildly (UST)**

Here, the pronoun **it** agrees with the grammatical number of **people** (singular). If your language does not use singular nouns in that way, you can use a different expression. Alternate translation: "that they were let loose, for Aaron had let them loose" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [the people](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [to mockery](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [the people](#)
- [so that...would laugh at them](#)

ULT

²⁵ And [Moses](#) saw [the people](#), that it was let loose, for [Aaron](#) had let it loose, [to mockery](#) by the risers-up against them.

UST

²⁵ [Moses](#) saw that [Aaron](#) had allowed [the people](#) to act wildly, [so that](#) their enemies [would laugh at them](#).

Exodus 32:26

**and said, “Who {is} for Yahweh...me...to (ULT)
and shouted, “Everyone who is loyal to
Yahweh, come close to me (UST)**

If it would be more natural in your language, you could express this as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: “and said that whoever was for Yahweh should come to him” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

**Who {is} for Yahweh (ULT)
Everyone who is loyal to Yahweh (UST)**

Moses speaks of being loyal to Yahweh as being **for Yahweh**. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: “Whoever serves Yahweh” (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [in the gate of](#)
- [is} for Yahweh](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Levi](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [he](#)
- [at the entrance](#)
- [is loyal to Yahweh](#)
- [the men in the tribe of](#)
- [Levi](#)

ULT

²⁶ And [Moses](#) stood [in the gate of](#) the camp and said, “Who [{is}](#) for Yahweh, to me!” And all of [the sons of Levi](#) gathered themselves to him.

UST

²⁶ So [he](#) stood [at the entrance](#) to the camp and shouted, “Everyone who [is loyal to Yahweh](#), come close to me!” All [the men in the tribe of Levi](#) gathered around him.

Exodus 32:27

**Pass through and return from gate to gate in the camp (ULT)
and then go through the camp from this entrance to the other one and back again (UST)**

Alternate translation: "Go from one side of the camp to the other, starting at one entrance to the camp and going to the entrance on the other side of the camp"

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- the God of
- his neighbor
- Israel
- his sword
- and return
- from gate
- to gate
- his...companion
- brother...his

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- the God of
- the Israelites
- your sword
- from this entrance
- to the other one
- and back again
- even if} they are your brother
- your friend
- or your neighbor

ULT

²⁷ And he said to them, "Thus says **Yahweh, the God of Israel**: 'Each man put **his sword** on his side. Pass through and return from gate to gate in the camp and kill each **his brother** and each **his companion** and each **his neighbor**.'"

UST

²⁷ Then he said to them, "**Yahweh, the God of the Israelites**, commands that every one of you should fasten **your sword** to your side, and then go through the camp **from this entrance to the other one and back again**. Each one of you must kill the {unfaithful} men, {even if} **they are your brother, your friend, or your neighbor**."

Exodus 32:28

about 3,000 (ULT)

3, 000 (UST)

Alternate translation: "about three thousand" (See: [Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Levi](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [on...day](#)
- [the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The men in the tribe of](#)
- [Levi](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Israelite](#)
- [day](#)

ULT

²⁸ And [the sons of Levi](#) did according to the word of [Moses](#). And on that [day](#) about 3,000 men from [the people](#) fell.

UST

²⁸ [The men in the tribe of Levi](#) did what [Moses](#) told them to do. They killed 3,000 [Israelite](#) men that [day](#).

Exodus 32:29

Fill your hand (ULT) consecrated (UST)

This seems to be an idiom for giving authority to someone. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:41](#). However, this usage is different from that text, as here it is not specified what authority they are given or what they are consecrated for other than **for Yahweh**. Alternate translation: "Consecrate yourselves" (See: [Idiom](#))

Fill your hand for Yahweh today (ULT) Yahweh...consecrated...today (UST)

Here it is unclear if **fill** should be rightly understood as in the past or as a new command. You may want to follow the decision of another translation your people are familiar with. Alternate translation: "You have filled your hand for Yahweh today"

For a man {was} against his son and against his brother (ULT) Because each of you {killed} even your own son and brother (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express the fact that they did this in obedience to God explicitly. Alternate translation: "For you have obeyed Yahweh, because each man was against his son and against his brother" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

and for putting a blessing on yourselves today (ULT) has...and blessed you...today (UST)

This phrase is difficult to interpret. Several options depend on exactly how the conjunction, preposition, and verb combination are interpreted. The first difficulty is related to the difficulty with the previous verb: have they already been blessed or are they going to be blessed? (Alternate translation: "to have put a blessing on yourselves today") The second difficulty is: should the clause connections be understood to say that the blessing is because of their actions, or more strongly, that a desire for blessing motivated them to take action? (Alternate translation: "and therefore a blessing is put on you today" or "so that a blessing may be put over you today") The third difficulty is: while ultimately all blessing is from Yahweh, which is the subject here, Yahweh or the Levites? (Alternate translation: "and so Yahweh is putting a blessing on you today") As with the previous clause, you may want to follow the decision of another translation your people are familiar with. Alternate translation: ", by that you brought blessing on yourselves"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [your hand](#)
- [for Yahweh](#)
- [today](#)
- [today](#)
- [was} against his son](#)
- [and against his brother](#)
- [a blessing](#)

ULT

²⁹ And [Moses](#) said, "Fill [your hand for Yahweh today!](#) For a man {[was](#)} [against his son and against his brother](#) and for putting [a blessing](#) on yourselves [today](#)."

UST

²⁹ [Moses](#) said {to the men in the tribe of [Levi](#)}, "Because each of you {[killed](#)} [even your own son and brother](#), [Yahweh](#) has [consecrated and blessed you today](#)."

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- killed} even your own son
- and brother
- Yahweh
- consecrated
- has...and blessed
- today
- today

Exodus 32:30

have sinned a great sin (ULT) have sinned very greatly (UST)

Here, **sin** used as a verb and then repeated as a noun for emphasis. Along with **great**, it suggests that the people sinned very, very badly. If the repetition of words in this way would not create emphasis, use another form in your language that would. Alternate translation: "You have sinned extremely badly" (See: [Doublet](#))

have sinned a great sin (ULT) have sinned very greatly (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for **sin**, you can express the idea behind it in another way. See the UST. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [the people](#)
- [have sinned](#)
- [a...sin](#)
- [your sin](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [I can atone](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the people](#)
- [have sinned very greatly](#)
- [have sinned very greatly](#)
- [you...sinning {like this](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [I can {persuade him to} forgive](#)

ULT

³⁰ And it happened the next day that [Moses](#) said to [the people](#), "You [have sinned](#) a great [sin](#). And now I will go up to [Yahweh](#). Perhaps [I can atone](#) for [your sin](#)."

UST

³⁰ The next day, [Moses](#) said to [the people](#), "You [have sinned very greatly](#). But I will now climb up the mountain {again} to {talk with} [Yahweh](#). Perhaps [I can {persuade him to} forgive](#) you for [sinning {like this}](#)."

Exodus 32:31

this people has sinned...sin (ULT)

These people sinned very greatly (UST)

Here, **sin** is used as a verb and then repeated as a noun for emphasis. Along with **great**, it suggests that the people sinned very, very badly. If the repetition of words in this way would not create emphasis, use another form in your language that would. Alternate translation: "this people has sinned extremely badly" (See: [Doublet](#))

sin (ULT)

sinned very greatly (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for **sin**, you can express the idea behind it in another way. See the UST. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

gods of (ULT)

a gold idol...it (UST)

Alternate translation: "a god"

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- And...returned
- Yahweh
- people
- has sinned
- sin
- gods of
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- So...went back up {the mountain
- Moses
- Yahweh
- These people
- sinned very greatly
- sinned very greatly
- a gold idol...it
- a gold idol...it

ULT

³¹ And Moses returned to Yahweh and said, "Oh, this people has sinned a great sin and made themselves gods of gold.

UST

³¹ So Moses went back up {the mountain} and said to Yahweh, "These people sinned very greatly when they made for themselves a gold idol {and worshiped it}! Please,

Exodus 32:32

But now, if you forgive their sin (ULT) if you would, forgive them for their sin now (UST)

Moses leaves out his conclusion, perhaps as a way of making this conditional phrase into a request, or perhaps to avoid suggesting to God what would be good for him to do. However, if leaving out a conclusion would be misunderstood in your language you may need to rephrase it or add the implied conclusion. Alternate translation: "But now, if you forgive their sin, good!" (See: [Ellipsis](#))

blot me out of (ULT) erase my name (UST)

Here, **me** refers to the name of Moses. Alternate translation: "erase my name from" (See: [Metonymy](#))

that you have written (ULT) in which you have written {your people's names (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express what God had written in the book explicitly. Alternate translation: "in which you have written the names of your people" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- you forgive
- their sin
- blot me out of
- your book

Translation Words - UST

- forgive
- them for their sin
- erase my name
- from the book

ULT

³² But now, if you forgive their sin; but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written."

UST

³² if you would, forgive them for their sin now. But if you will not forgive them, please erase my name from the book in which you have written {your people's names}."

Exodus 32:33

I will blot him out from my book (ULT) I will erase their names from that book (UST)

Here, **him** represents that person's name. Alternate translation: "I will erase that person's name from my book" (See: [Metonymy](#))

from my book (ULT) from that book (UST)

This refers to the book of Yahweh that Moses spoke of in [Exodus 32:32](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [sinned](#)
- [I will blot him out](#)
- [from my book](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [has sinned](#)
- [I will erase their names](#)
- [from that book](#)

ULT

³³ But [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Whoever that [sinned](#) against me, [I will blot him out from my book](#)."

UST

³³ But [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Whoever [has sinned](#) against me, [I will erase their names from that book](#)."

Exodus 32:34

But on the day I visit them, then I will visit their sin on them (ULT)

However, sometime I will come and I will punish them for how they sinned (UST)

Yahweh makes it clear that he will punish the people because they sinned by making and worshiping the idol. If it would be more natural in your language, you could reverse the order of these phrases, since the second phrase gives the reason for the result that the first phrase describes. Alternate translation: "However, because they sinned, one day I will come to punish them." (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the people
- my angel
- But on the day
- their sin

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelites
- my angel
- However, sometime
- them for how they sinned

ULT

³⁴ So now go, lead [the people](#) to where I have spoken to you! Behold, [my angel](#) will go before your face. [But on the day](#) I visit them, then I will visit [their sin](#) on them."

UST

³⁴ Now, go lead [the Israelites](#) to the place I told you about! Watch for [my angel](#) going in front of you. [However, sometime](#) I will come and I will punish [them for how they sinned.](#)"

Exodus 32:35

they had made the calf (that Aaron made (ULT)

they had made Aaron make the bull idol (UST)

The people are being spoken of as having made the calf themselves (along with Aaron) because they demanded it and gave their gold for it. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: “they were guilty along with Aaron of making the calf” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

And Yahweh plagued the people because they had made the calf (that Aaron made (ULT)

Later Yahweh caused the people to become sick because they had made Aaron make the bull idol (UST)

If it would be more natural in your language, you could reverse the order of these phrases, since the second phrase gives the reason for the result that the first phrase describes. Alternate translation: “And because they had made the calf (that Aaron made), Yahweh plagued the people. (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

ULT

³⁵ And Yahweh plagued the people because they had made the calf (that Aaron made).

UST

³⁵ Later Yahweh caused the people to become sick because they had made Aaron make the bull idol.

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- And...plagued
- the people
- the calf
- Aaron

Translation Words - UST

- Later...caused...to become sick
- Yahweh
- the people
- Aaron
- the bull idol

Exodus 33

Exodus 33 General Notes

This chapter is largely about Moses continuing to negotiate for a closer relationship between Yahweh and himself and Yahweh and the people. There are a number of important theological issues addressed, especially Yahweh's holiness and character. Several key terms appear.

Structure:

- v. 1-6: Moses negotiating with Yahweh to go with Israel
- v. 7-11: the temporary tent of meeting
- v. 12-23: Moses negotiating with Yahweh to see his glory

Potential Translation Issues

Yahweh's statement to Moses in verse 5 seems to have happened before the people's reaction in verse 4, so in some languages you may need to reverse them.

Verses 7-11 seem to be background, general information about a somewhat unspecified time period. Be sure this is clear in how you structure these verses. See the beginning of verse 7 in the UST. While the term in verses 7-11 is often used interchangeably with the Dwelling that will be built in chapters 35-39, it is a temporary and different tent. One distinguishing feature is that it is well outside the camp, while the Dwelling will be in the center of the camp.

The word **tent** in verses 7-11 refers either to this temporary "tent of meeting" that Moses set up or to the tents that the Israelites lived in. Pay attention throughout these verses to which tent is referred to.

Exodus 33:1

saying, 'I will give it to your seed (ULT) that I would give to their descendants (UST)

The words which follow **saying** are a second-level quotation. It may be helpful to your readers to indicate this with second-level quotation marks or with whatever other punctuation or convention your language uses to indicate a quotation within a quotation. However, you may want to translate this as an indirect quotation in order to reduce the layers of quotations in this passage. See UST. (See: [Quotes within Quotes](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- to your seed
- and the people
- from the land of
- the land
- Egypt
- I swore
- to Abraham
- to Isaac
- and to Jacob

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- to their descendants
- the people
- out of Egypt
- out of Egypt
- the land
- I promised
- Abraham
- Isaac
- and Jacob

ULT

¹ And Yahweh spoke to Moses, "Go, arise from here, you and the people whom you have brought up from the land of Egypt to the land which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your seed.'

UST

¹ Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Get up and go from here with the people whom you led out of Egypt. Go to the land that I promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that I would give to their descendants.

Exodus 33:2

And I will send an angel before your face, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites, Hivites and the Jebusites (ULT)

I will send my angel ahead of you, and I will remove the people descended from Canaan, Amor, Heth, Periz, Hiv, and Jebus from that land (UST)

See how you translated these in [Exodus 23:20](#) and [23:23](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [And I will send](#)
- [an angel](#)
- [the Canaanites](#)
- [the Amorites](#)
- [and the Hittites](#)
- [and the Perizzites](#)
- [Hivites](#)
- [and the Jebusites](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [I will send](#)
- [my angel](#)
- [Canaan](#)
- [Amor](#)
- [Heth](#)
- [Periz](#)
- [Hiv](#)
- [and Jebus](#)

ULT

² [And I will send an angel](#) before your face, and I will drive out [the Canaanites, the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites, Hivites and the Jebusites](#).

UST

² [I will send my angel](#) ahead of you, and I will remove the people descended from [Canaan, Amor, Heth, Periz, Hiv, and Jebus](#) from that land.

Exodus 33:3

with} milk and honey (ULT) raising livestock and growing crops (UST)

Here, **milk** is a metonym for domestic animals and the food products obtained from them; **honey** is a metonym for the food obtained from growing plants. See how you translated this in [Exodus 3:8](#). (See: [Metonymy](#))

flowing {with} milk and honey (ULT) very good for raising livestock and growing crops (UST)

God spoke of the land being good for animals and plants as if the milk and honey from those animals and plants were flowing through the land. See how you translated this in [Exodus 3:8](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

hard of neck (ULT) are very obstinate people (UST)

Yahweh speaks of the people being rebellious as if they had **hard necks**. See how you translated this in [Exodus 32:9](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a land
- and honey
- are} a people
- hard of neck
- I destroy you

Translation Words - UST

- a land that will be
- and growing crops
- I might annihilate you
- are very obstinate people
- are very obstinate people

ULT

³ {Go} to a land flowing {with} milk and honey, but I will not go up in your midst, because you {are} a people hard of neck, lest I destroy you on the way."

UST

³ You will go to a land that will be very good for raising livestock and growing crops. But I will not go with you myself, because if I did that, I might annihilate you while you are traveling, because you are very obstinate people."

Exodus 33:4

and each one did not put his ornaments on him (ULT)

Here, **his** and **him** refer to both men and women. Alternate translation: “and the men and women did not put on their ornaments” (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

his ornaments (ULT)

This may have referred to beautiful clothing as well as chains and rings made from gold or silver that had could have had jewels in them. Alternate translation: “his adornments” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

jewelry

Yahweh’s statement to Moses in verse 5 seems to have happened before the people’s reaction in verse 4, so in some languages you may need to reverse them. (See: [Verse Bridges](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the people](#)
- [evil](#)
- [and they mourned](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [evil, wicked, unpleasant](#)
- [mourn, mourner, weeping](#)
- [people, people group](#)

ULT

⁴ And [the people](#) heard this [evil](#) word, [and they mourned](#), and each one did not put his ornaments on him.

UST

⁴⁻⁵ Yahweh told Moses to tell the Israelites, “You are very stubborn. If I were to go with you for even a moment, I would kill you. Now take off your fine things {to show that you are sorry for sinning}. Then I will decide if I will punish you.” When the people heard that Yahweh spoke harshly, they were sorry, and no one wore fancy things.

Exodus 33:5

And Yahweh {had} said (ULT)

The word **had** places Yahweh's statement back in time. It can be understood from context as Yahweh's statement to Moses in verse 5 seems to have happened before the people's reaction in verse 4. If you are reversing the order of the verses for your language, you should adjust the verbal sequencing in your translation. (See: [Order of Events](#))

Say to the sons of Israel (ULT)

You may want to make the introductory portion of this quotation, **Say to the sons of Israel**, indirect to keep from having a quote inside a quote. See the UST. (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

hard of neck (ULT)

Yahweh speaks of the people being rebellious as if they had **hard necks**. See how you translated this in [Exodus 32:9](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

If} I went up among you {for} one moment, then I {would} destroy you. And now (ULT)

Because the surrounding narrative clearly shows that this is not what Yahweh did or will do, this is a hypothetical situation. Some languages may need to reorder the clauses. Alternate translation: "Since I would destroy if I went up among you for one moment, then" (See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#))

And now, take your ornaments down from on you, and I will know what I will do to you (ULT)

The goal of the Israelites removing their ornaments is so that Yahweh can consider his reaction. Some languages may need to reorder this structure. Alternate translation: "So that I will know what I will do to you, take your ornaments down from on you" (See: [Connect — Goal \(Purpose\) Relationship](#))

And now, take your ornaments down from on you (ULT)

This was a way for the Israelites to show that they were sorry for sinning. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- the sons of
- Israel
- are a people
- then I {would} destroy you
- and I will know

ULT

⁵ And Yahweh {had} said to Moses, "Say to the sons of Israel, 'You are a people hard of neck. {If} I went up among you {for} one moment, then I {would} destroy you. And now, take your ornaments down from on you, and I will know what I will do to you.'"

UST

⁴⁻⁵ Yahweh told Moses to tell the Israelites, "You are very stubborn. If I were to go with you for even a moment, I would kill you. Now take off your fine things {to show that you are sorry for sinning}. Then I will decide if I will punish you." When the people heard that Yahweh spoke harshly, they were sorry, and no one wore fancy things.

Translation Words - UST

- Israel, Israelites
- son
- Yahweh
- Moses
- destroy, destruction, annihilate
- know, knowledge, unknown, distinguish
- people, people group

Exodus 33:6

And...stripped themselves (ULT) took off and left off (UST)

Here, **themselves** refers to the Israelites; they are both the ones doing the action and the ones to whom the action is done. A special form of verb or pronoun may be required to translate this in your language. (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

from Mount Horeb (ULT) From Mount Sinai on (UST)

Here, **from** means “from that point of time and continuing into the future.” Try to find a form in your language that means “from then on” for your translation. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Horeb](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [From Mount Sinai on](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

ULT

⁶ And [the sons of Israel](#) stripped themselves {of} their ornaments from Mount [Horeb](#).

UST

⁶ [From Mount Sinai on](#), [the Israelites](#) took off and left off all their fine things.

Exodus 33:7

a stubborn people

Verses 7-11 seem to be background, general information about a somewhat unspecified time period. Be sure this is clear in how you structure these verses. See the beginning of verse 7 in the UST. (See: [Connect — Background Information](#))

a tent (ULT)

a tent (UST)

The word **tent** in verses 7-11 refers either to this temporary “tent of meeting” that Moses set up, or to the tents that the Israelites lived in. Pay attention throughout these verses to which tent is being referenced. Here it refers to the “tent of meeting.”

Translation Words - ULT

- [And Moses](#)
- [And he called](#)
- [the tent of meeting](#)
- [the tent of meeting](#)
- [seeker of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Until they built the sacred tent,} Moses](#)
- [He called](#)
- [the tent of meeting](#)
- [the tent of meeting](#)
- [who wanted...to decide something for them](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

⁷ [And Moses](#) would take a tent and would pitch it on the outside of the camp, at a distance from the camp. [And he called](#) it [the tent of meeting](#). And it happened, every [seeker of Yahweh](#) would go out to [the tent of meeting](#) that {was} on the outside of the camp.

UST

⁷ {[Until they built the sacred tent,} \[Moses\]\(#\) set up a tent outside the camp, far away. \[He called\]\(#\) it “\[the tent of meeting\]\(#\).” Everyone \[who wanted Yahweh to decide something for them\]\(#\) would go out of the camp to \[the tent of meeting\]\(#\).](#)

Exodus 33:8

his tent (ULT) at their own tent entrances (UST)

This refers to the people's tents.

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Moses
- the tent
- the tent
- the people

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- him
- the tent of meeting
- into the tent of meeting
- the people

ULT

⁸ And it happened as Moses went out to the tent, all the people would stand up and each would be stationed {at} the entrance of his tent, and they stared behind Moses until he went into the tent.

UST

⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the tent of meeting, all the people would stand at their own tent entrances and watch him until he had walked into the tent of meeting.

Exodus 33:9

the pillar of cloud (ULT) the tall cloud (UST)

See how you translated this in [13:21](#).

would come down (ULT) would come down (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express where the **pillar of cloud would come down** from explicitly. Alternate translation: “would come down from the sky” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

and he would speak (ULT) and then {Yahweh} would talk (UST)

Grammatically, the most likely referent for this pronoun is the **pillar of cloud**. By metonymy and based on [verse 11](#), this probably refers to Yahweh. (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the tent](#)
- [the tent](#)
- [the pillar of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the tent of meeting](#)
- [at the tent entrance](#)
- [the tall cloud](#)

ULT

⁹ And it happened, as [Moses](#) entered [the tent](#), [the pillar of cloud](#) would come down and stand {at} the entrance of [the tent](#), and he would speak with [Moses](#).

UST

⁹ Whenever [Moses](#) went into [the tent of meeting](#), [the tall cloud](#) would come down and stay [at the tent entrance](#), and then {Yahweh} would talk with [Moses](#).

Exodus 33:10

**And all of the people saw the pillar of cloud standing {at} the entrance of the tent, and all of the people would get up and bow down, each {at} the entrance of his tent (ULT)
When the people saw the tall cloud standing at the entrance to the tent of meeting, they would all bow to worship Yahweh at their own tent entrances (UST)**

This verse uses contrastive parallelism. The presence of Yahweh is represented in the cloud that stands at the entrance of the tent, while the people prostrate themselves at the entrance to their tents. It would be good to try to retain the contrasting image in your translation if possible. (See: [Parallelism](#))

**the pillar of...cloud (ULT)
the tall cloud (UST)**

See how you translated this in [13:21](#).

**his tent (ULT)
at their own tent entrances (UST)**

This refers to the people's tents.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the people](#)
- [the people \(2\)](#)
- [the pillar of](#)
- [the tent](#)
- [and bow down](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the people](#)
- [they...all \(2\)](#)
- [the tall cloud](#)
- [at the entrance to the tent of meeting](#)
- [would...bow to worship Yahweh](#)

ULT

¹⁰ And all of [the people](#) saw [the pillar of cloud standing {at} the entrance of the tent](#), and all of [the people](#) would get up [and bow down](#), each {at} the entrance of his tent.

UST

¹⁰ When [the people](#) saw [the tall cloud standing at the entrance to the tent of meeting](#), they would [all bow to worship Yahweh](#) at their own tent entrances.

Exodus 33:11

face to face (ULT) directly (UST)

Speaking directly to each other rather than through dreams and visions is spoken of as if Moses and God saw each other's faces while they spoke. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "Yahweh would speak directly to Moses" (See: [Metaphor](#))

as a man speaks to his friend (ULT) like someone speaks to his friend (UST)

The metaphor of speaking **face to face** is explained by the simile here. How you translated **face to face** in your language may determine how you should translate this explanation. (See: [Simile](#))

but his servant Joshua son of Nun, a young man (ULT) But his young helper, Joshua son of Nun (UST)

Joshua has been introduced before but not mentioned since [Exodus 32:17](#). Consider if your language will need to re-introduce Joshua in any way here. (See: [Introduction of New and Old Participants](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Moses
- Then Moses would return
- but his servant
- a young man
- Joshua
- son of
- the tent

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- Moses
- Then Moses would return
- But his young helper
- But his young helper
- Joshua
- son of
- the tent of meeting

ULT

¹¹ And Yahweh would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua son of Nun, a young man, would not withdraw from the midst of the tent.

UST

¹¹ Yahweh would speak directly to Moses like someone speaks to his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp. But his young helper, Joshua son of Nun, would stay in the tent of meeting.

Exodus 33:12

See

A new scene begins here, which may need to be marked in a certain way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

See

You may want to make these two second-level quotations indirect to reduce the levels of quotation. See the UST. (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

See (ULT)**Please pay attention (UST)**

This is an interjection to get someone's attention. Alternate translation: "Look!" or "Listen!" or "Pay attention to what I am about to tell you"

**I know you by name (ULT)
you know me well (UST)**

To **know** someone **by name** is to know them well. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "I know you well" (See: [Idiom](#))

**and you have also found favor in my eyes (ULT)
also...and that you are pleased with me (UST)**

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "and my eyes find you favorable" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

**and you have also found favor in my eyes (ULT)
also...and that you are pleased with me (UST)**

Here, **found favor in my eyes** is an idiom that means "I am pleased with you" so it means that God is pleased with Moses. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "and you please me" (See: [Idiom](#))

**and you have also found favor in my eyes (ULT)
also...and that you are pleased with me (UST)**

Here, **in my eyes** is a metaphor representing God's evaluation. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "and you have also found favor in my evaluation" (See: [Metaphor](#))

ULT

¹² And Moses said to Yahweh, "See, you {have been} saying to me, 'Take this people up,' but you have not caused me to know whom you will send with me. And you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my eyes.'

UST

¹² Moses said to Yahweh, "Please pay attention. You told me to lead the Israelites {to the land that you will show me}. But you have not told me whom you will send {to help} me! You also said that you know me well and that you are pleased with me.

and you have also found favor in my eyes (ULT) also...and that you are pleased with me (UST)

Here, **favor** is an abstract noun that you could express in another way if necessary in your language. Alternate translation: "and you have also been found approved in my eyes" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Yahweh
- people
- have...caused me to know
- I know you
- you will send
- by name
- favor

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- Yahweh
- the Israelites
- have...told me
- you know me well
- you will send
- you know me well
- and that you are pleased with me

Exodus 33:13

**I have found favor in your eyes...I can find favor in your eyes (ULT)
you are truly pleased with me...and continue to please you (UST)**

Here, **found favor in your eyes** is an idiom that means that God is pleased with Moses. You may also need to make the phrase active in form and change the abstract noun **favor** into another form. Finally, **in your eyes** is a metaphor representing his evaluation. See how you dealt with the multiple issues in the phrase **you have found favor in my eyes** in [Exodus 33:12](#).

**please cause me to know your ways (ULT)
please tell me the things that you are going to do (UST)**

Here, **ways** is a metaphor either: (1) for Yahweh's plans or (2) for the holy life he requires. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: (1) "please cause me to know what you are going to do in the future" (2) "please cause me to know how people can do what pleases you" (See: [Metaphor](#))

**I can find favor in your eyes (ULT)
and continue to please you (UST)**

This instance of the phrase **find favor in your eyes** means in the future. Consider how to translate it in your language to convey an on-going situation. Alternate translation: "I can always find favor in your eyes"

**And see that this nation is your people (ULT)
Please remember that the Israelites are the people whom you chose to belong to you (UST)**

Moses is requesting that Yahweh would again **see**, perceive, consider, or recognize the Israelites as his special people. In this way, Moses would know that Yahweh had truly forgiven them.

Translation Words - ULT

- favor
- favor
- cause me to know
- and I will know you
- nation
- is your people

Translation Words - UST

- you are truly pleased with me
- and continue to please you

ULT

¹³ And now please, if I have found favor in your eyes, please cause me to know your ways, and I will know you so that I can find favor in your eyes. And see that this nation is your people."

UST

¹³ So now, if you are truly pleased with me, I ask you, please tell me the things that you are going to do in order that I may know you better and continue to please you. Please remember that the Israelites are the people whom you chose to belong to you."

- tell me
- I may know you better
- the Israelites
- are the people whom you chose to belong to you

Exodus 33:14**My face will go (ULT)****I will go (UST)**

Yahweh's **face** represents his presence, which represents himself.
 Alternate translation: "I will go" (See: [Metonymy](#))

My face will go, and I will cause rest for you (ULT)**I will go with you and relieve you (UST)**

The preposition connected to **you** here has a very flexible meaning and seems to be connected to both **will go** and **will cause rest**. If this would be unclear, consider repeating it in both clauses. Alternate translation: "My face will go with you and I will cause rest for you" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

for you (ULT)**with you...you (UST)**

The word **you** here refers to Moses. It is singular. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Singular](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and I will cause rest](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [and relieve](#)

ULT

¹⁴ And he said, "My face will go, [and I will cause rest](#) for you."

UST

¹⁴ Yahweh replied, "I will go with you [and relieve](#) you."

Exodus 33:15

If your face {is} not going (ULT)

If you do not go {with me} (UST)

If your face is not going is a hypothetical situation in which Moses makes a request that they not go anywhere without Yahweh. In some languages you may need to place the request first. Alternate translation: "Do not take us up from here if your face is not going" (See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#))

If your face {is} not going (ULT)

If you do not go {with me} (UST)

Yahweh's **face** represents his presence, which represents himself. Alternate translation: "If you are not going" (See: [Metonymy](#))

ULT

¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your face {is} not going, do not take us up from here.

UST

¹⁵ Moses replied to Yahweh, "If you do not go {with me}, do not make us leave this place.

Exodus 33:16

And in what then will it be known that I have found favor in your eyes, I and your people? {Is it} not in your going with us? And I and your people shall be distinct from all of the people that {are} on the face of the earth (ULT)

The only way that others will know that you are pleased with me and with your people is if you go with us! If you go with us, it will show that we are different from all the other nations on the earth (UST)

This verse contains two or three rhetorical questions, and the length of the second is debated. The first rhetorical question, “**And in what then will it be known that I have found favor in your eyes, I and your people?**” is used for emphasis and means, “There is only one way people will know that I and your people please you.” The second, “**Is it not in your going with us?**” is used to answer the first question and means “That way is your going with us.” It is possible that the rest of the verse is (1) a statement further clarifying how Yahweh’s favor is demonstrated (ULT, UST), (2) an extension of the second rhetorical question (“Is it not in your going with us so that I and your people shall be distinct from all of the people that are on the face of the earth?”), or (3) a separate rhetorical question making the same point (“And shall I and your people be distinct from all of the people that are on the face of the earth?”) Moses used these questions in order to emphasize that if Yahweh does not go with them, no one will know that Yahweh is pleased with Moses and the people. Use whatever forms would be natural in your language to present an argument like this. If you would not use a rhetorical question for this purpose in your language, you could translate his words as a statement or an exclamation and communicate the emphasis in another way. (See: [Rhetorical Question](#))

And in what (ULT)

The only way that others will know that you are pleased with me and with your people is if you go with us (UST)

This refers back to Moses’ hypothetical situation in the previous verse, that is, Yahweh not going with them. Use whatever connecting forms are necessary to make that clear. (See: [Information Structure](#))

And in what then will it be known (ULT)

The only way that others will know that you are pleased with me and with your people is if you go with us (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “And in what then will people know” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

ULT

¹⁶ And in what then will it be known that I have found favor in your eyes, I and your people? {Is it} not in your going with us? And I and your people shall be distinct from all of the people that {are} on the face of the earth.”

UST

¹⁶ The only way that others will know that you are pleased with me and with your people is if you go with us! If you go with us, it will show that we are different from all the other nations on the earth.”

I have found favor in your eyes (ULT)

The only way that others will know that you are pleased with me and with your people is if you go with us (UST)

Here, **found favor** is an idiom that means that God is pleased with Moses. You may also need to make the phrase active in form and change the abstract noun **favor** into another form. Finally, **eyes** are a metonym for sight, and sight is a metaphor representing his evaluation. See how you dealt with the multiple issues in the phrase **you have found favor in my eyes** in [Exodus 33:12](#). (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- will it be known
- favor
- and your people
- and your people
- the people
- the earth

Translation Words - UST

- The only way that others will know that you are pleased with me and with your people is if you go with us
- The only way that others will know that you are pleased with me and with your people is if you go with us
- If you go with us
- the other nations
- The only way that others will know that you are pleased with me and with your people is if you go with us
- the earth

Exodus 33:17

**I will also do this thing that you have spoken,
for you have found favor in my eyes, and I
know you by name (ULT)**

**I will do what you have asked, because I know
you well and I am pleased with you (UST)**

Here, **for** signals a reason clause. If it would be more natural in your language, you could reverse the order of these phrases, since the second phrase gives the reason for the result that the first phrase describes. Alternate translation: "Because you have found favor in my eyes, and I know you by name, I will also do this thing that you have spoken" (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

**you have found favor in my eyes (ULT)
I am pleased with you (UST)**

Here, **you have found favor in my eyes** is an idiom that means that God is pleased with Moses. You may also need to make the phrase active in form and change the abstract noun **favor** into another form. Finally, **eyes** are a metonym for sight, and sight is a metaphor representing his evaluation. See how you dealt with the multiple issues in the phrase **you have found favor in my eyes** in [Exodus 33:12](#). (See: [Idiom](#))

**you have found (ULT)
I am pleased with you (UST)**

Here, **you** is singular and refers to Moses. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Singular](#))

**and I know you by name (ULT)
I know you well and (UST)**

To know someone by name is to know them well. See how you translated this in [Exodus 33:12](#). Alternate translation: "and I know you well" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [favor](#)
- [and I know you](#)
- [by name](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [I know you well and](#)
- [I know you well and](#)
- [I am pleased with you](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "I will also do this thing that you have spoken, for you have found [favor](#) in my eyes, and I [know you by name](#)."

UST

¹⁷ [Yahweh](#) replied to [Moses](#), "I will do what you have asked, because [I know you well and I am pleased with you](#)."

Exodus 33:18

your glory (ULT)

how glorious you are (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **glory**, you can express the same idea in another way. See the UST. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [your glory](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [how glorious you are](#)

ULT

¹⁸ And he said, "Please show me [your glory](#)."

UST

¹⁸ Then Moses said, "Please let me see [how glorious you are](#)."

Exodus 33:19

**I myself will cause all my goodness to pass
over above your face (ULT)
I will display to you how good I am (UST)**

Yahweh speaks of his **goodness** like it was an object that he could move over Moses. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. See the UST. (See: [Metaphor](#))

**my goodness (ULT)
how good I am (UST)**

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **goodness**, you can express the same idea in another way. See the UST. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

**above your face...before your face (ULT)
to you...you (UST)**

Here, **face** means "you." Alternate translation: "above you ... before you" (See: [Metonymy](#))

**and I will proclaim in the name of Yahweh (ULT)
and tell...what} my name Yahweh {means (UST)**

The meaning of the phrase is unclear. It may mean that Yahweh will disclose something about his character to Moses. Alternate translation: "and I will proclaim my name, 'Yahweh,'"

**and I will favor whom I will favor, and I will be compassionate to whom I will
be compassionate (ULT)
I will act kindly to anyone I choose, and I will act mercifully to anyone I
choose (UST)**

These statements use parallelism internally and between each other. They stress Yahweh's divine prerogative to do whatever he wants. The structure also parallels Yahweh's I AM statements in [Exodus 3:14](#). If this form of parallelism would be misunderstood in your language, consider another form that emphasizes that Yahweh is graciously kind to exactly those and only those to whom he chooses to show kindness, and he does so without outside influence. (See: [Parallelism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [my goodness](#)
- [and I will proclaim](#)
- [in the name of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [and I will favor](#)
- [I will favor](#)
- [and I will be compassionate](#)

ULT

¹⁹ And he said, "I myself will cause all [my goodness](#) to pass over above your face, [and I will proclaim in the name of Yahweh](#) before your face: [and I will favor](#) whom [I will favor](#), [and I will be compassionate](#) to whom [I will be compassionate](#)."

UST

¹⁹ Yahweh replied, "I will display to you [how good I am](#) and tell you {[what](#)} [my name Yahweh](#) {[means](#)}. [I will act kindly to anyone I choose](#), and [I will act mercifully to anyone I choose](#)."

- I will be compassionate

Translation Words - UST

- how good I am
- and tell
- what} my name...means
- Yahweh
- I will act kindly to anyone I choose
- I will act kindly to anyone I choose
- and I will act mercifully to anyone I choose
- and I will act mercifully to anyone I choose

Exodus 33:20

But he said (ULT)

But (UST)

In some languages it may be better to omit **And he said** at the start of this verse to avoid stopping and restarting the quotation. Yahweh is speaking from 33:19-34:3. (See: [Quotations and Quote Margins](#))

**for mankind can not see me and live (ULT)
because anyone who sees my face will die
(UST)**

Alternate translation: "because no person can live after he has seen me"

Translation Words - ULT

- [and live](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [will die](#)

ULT

²⁰ But he said, "You are not able to see my face, for mankind can not see me [and live.](#)"

UST

²⁰ But you cannot see my face, because anyone who sees my face [will die.](#)

Exodus 33:21

And Yahweh said (ULT)

But (UST)

In some languages it may be better to omit **And Yahweh said** at the start of this verse to avoid stopping and restarting the quotation. Yahweh is speaking from 33:19-34:3. (See: [Quotations and Quote Margins](#))

Behold (ULT)

look (UST)

Alternate translation: "Look" or "Listen" or "Pay attention to what I am about to tell you."

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [But](#)

ULT

²¹ And [Yahweh](#) said, "Behold, a place with me, and you shall station yourself on the rock.

UST

²¹ [But](#) look! Here is a place close to me where you can stand on a large rock.

Exodus 33:22

while my glory passes over (ULT)

When...my glorious {light...goes by you (UST)

Yahweh speaks of his **glory** as if it were an object that he could move over Moses. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “while I pass over gloriously” (See: [Metaphor](#))

my glory (ULT)

my glorious {light (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **glory**, you can express the same idea in another way. See the UST. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

and my hand will cover over you (ULT)

and cover you with my hand (UST)

Here Yahweh speaks as if he, like a person, had hands that could cover things. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use a simile to retain the image, as this figure is important to retain and extends into the next verse. Alternate translation: “I will cover you as with a hand” (See: [Personification](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [my glory](#)
- [that I will put you](#)
- [my hand](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [my glorious {light](#)
- [I will put you](#)
- [with my hand](#)

ULT

²² And it will happen, while [my glory](#) passes over, [that I will put you](#) in a crevice of the rock, and [my hand](#) will cover over you until I have passed over.

UST

²² When [my glorious {light}](#) goes by you, [I will put you](#) in a large hole in the rock and cover you [with my hand](#) until I have gone by you.

Exodus 33:23

Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back, but my face will not be seen (ULT)

Then I will take my hand away, and you will see my back, but you will not see my face (UST)

The strong personification image of Yahweh continues throughout this verse and should be retained, if possible. You may have to use similes if this would be misunderstood in your culture. Alternate translation: "Then it will be as if I stop covering you with a hand, and you will see a small part of my glory, like a person's back, but not my full glory, like a person's face." (See: [Personification](#))

but my face (ULT)

but...my face (UST)

Here, **but my face** is moved to the front of the clause to emphasize contrast with **my back**. If your language has a certain way of contrasting elements, be sure to make a strong contrast between Yahweh's face and back. (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

but my face will not be seen (ULT)

but you will not see my face (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "but you will not see my face" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [my hand](#)
- [but my face](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [my hand](#)
- [but...my face](#)

ULT

²³ Then I will take away [my hand](#), and you will see my back, [but my face](#) will not be seen."

UST

²³ Then I will take [my hand](#) away, and you will see my back, [but you will not see my face.](#)"

Exodus 34

Exodus 34 General Notes

Outline

- v. 1-4 Yahweh orders Moses to return to the mountain
- v. 5-9 Yahweh reveals himself to Moses and Moses reacts
- v. 10-28 Covenant renewal
- v. 29-34 Moses reports to Israel

Possible Translation Difficulties in this Chapter

- In verse 1, Yahweh says he will write on stone tablets, yet later (v. 27-28) he commands Moses to write and the text says Moses writes.
- Yahweh reveals something significant about himself or his character to Moses. There are a number of difficult terms and concepts.
- The biblical metaphor of true worship as sexual fidelity appears in v. 14-16.
- Several verses are repeated either exactly or closely from earlier chapters.
- In v. 12-26 Yahweh appears to give a different 10 commandments from those in Exodus 20 (but also largely repeated from other earlier parts of Exodus), raising the question of what was actually written on the stone tablets in v. 28.
- The concept of Moses's shining face may be difficult in some cultures.

“He will bring the punishment for the fathers’ sin on their children”

This phrase does not mean that a child is necessarily punished for the sins of their parents. Many scholars believe that this passage indicates that a parent's sins will have consequences that will affect their children and grandchildren. (See: [sin](#), [sinful](#), [sinner](#), [sinning](#))

Exodus 34:1

And Yahweh said to Moses (ULT)

Yahweh kept talking to Moses (UST)

Yahweh continues to speak to Moses, but there is a change of topic here, so you may want to retain the speech introduction. However, if it would be misunderstood, you could simply continue the quotation from the previous verse. Alternate translation: "Yahweh continued" (See: [Quotations and Quote Margins](#))

that you broke (ULT)

the ones that you smashed (UST)

This clause reminds the reader of what tablets are being mentioned by reminding you of what had happened to the previous tablets. If it would be more helpful in your language to attach it to the first mention of the tablets in this verse, you could rearrange it like the UST. (See: [Information Structure](#))

tablets of stone (ULT)

slabs of stone (UST)

Alternate translation: "flat slabs of stone" See how you translated this in [Exodus 31:18](#)

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

¹ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Carve for yourself two tablets of stone like the first. And I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets that you broke.

UST

¹ [Yahweh](#) kept talking to [Moses](#), "Cut two slabs of stone like the first slabs, the ones that you smashed. Then I will write the same thing on them as was on the first slabs.

Exodus 34:2

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- [Mount Sinai](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [at the top of Mount Sinai](#)

ULT

² And be ready by morning, and in the morning come up to [Mount Sinai](#), and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain.

UST

² Get ready tomorrow morning, and come up and stand before me [at the top of Mount Sinai](#).

Exodus 34:3

and also let a man not be seen on all of the mountain (ULT)

I do not want anyone else to be anywhere on the mountain...or (UST)

Being seen doing something represents doing that. Alternate translation: "and do not let anyone else be anywhere on the mountain" (See: [Metonymy](#))

not...Also let...the flocks and the herds graze to the front of that mountain (ULT)

not...Do...even allow any sheep...cattle to eat grass near the mountain (UST)

Alternate translation: "Even flocks or herds are not allowed to come near the mountain to eat."

Translation Words - ULT

- [the flocks](#)
- [and the herds](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [sheep](#)
- [cattle](#)

ULT

³ And a man shall not come up with you and also let a man not be seen on all of the mountain. Also let not [the flocks](#) and [the herds](#) graze to the front of that mountain."

UST

³ Do not allow anyone to come up with you. I do not want anyone else to be anywhere on the mountain. Do not even allow any [sheep](#) or [cattle](#) to eat grass near the mountain."

Exodus 34:4

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Yahweh
- had commanded

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- Yahweh
- had told

ULT

⁴ And he carved two tablets of stone like the first, and **Moses** got up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai as **Yahweh had commanded** him. And he took the two tablets of stone in his hand.

UST

⁴ So **Moses** cut two slabs of stone like the first ones. He rose early the next morning, picked up the slabs, and carried them in his hands up to the top of Mount Sinai, as **Yahweh had told** him.

Exodus 34:5

and stood with him there, and he pronounced (ULT)

and stood there with Moses. Then Yahweh called out (UST)

The pronouns are not clear here, but the referents are probably as in the following alternate translation: "and Yahweh stood with Moses there, and Yahweh proclaimed" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

and he pronounced in the name of Yahweh (ULT)

Then Yahweh called out his name, "Yahweh (UST)

This could mean: (1) "he spoke the name 'Yahweh'" (2) "he proclaimed who Yahweh is." For the second meaning, **name** would represent who God is. (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [and he pronounced](#)
- [in the name of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Then Yahweh called out](#)
- [his name](#)

ULT

⁵ And [Yahweh](#) came down in the cloud and stood with him there, [and he pronounced in the name of Yahweh.](#)

UST

⁵ Then [Yahweh](#) came down in the tall cloud and stood there with Moses. [Then Yahweh called out his name, "Yahweh."](#)

Exodus 34:6

Yahweh, Yahweh, a God compassionate and gracious (ULT)

I am Yahweh God. I always act mercifully and kindly toward people (UST)

God is speaking about himself. If this is confusing in your language, you may use the first person. Alternate translation: "I, Yahweh, am God, and I am merciful and gracious" (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

compassionate and gracious (ULT)

I always act mercifully and kindly toward people (UST)

This is emphasizing that Yahweh cares for people and acts kindly toward them. If doubling would not strengthen the statement here in your language, consider another form that would. (See: [Doublet](#))

long of nostril (ULT)

and I do not get angry quickly (UST)

The phrase **long of nostril** is an idiom that means Yahweh does not get angry easily or quickly. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "slow to anger" (See: [Idiom](#))

and abounding in covenant faithfulness and trustworthiness (ULT)

I abundantly love and faithfully do what I promise for my people (UST)

If your language does not use abstract nouns for the ideas of **covenant faithfulness** and **trustworthiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. (For **covenant faithfulness**, see [Exodus 20:6](#)). Alternate translation: "always being faithful to my covenant and always being trustworthy" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

covenant faithfulness and trustworthiness (ULT)

I abundantly love and faithfully do what I promise for my people (UST)

This is emphasizing that Yahweh always does what he promises toward the people he loves. If doubling would not strengthen the statement here in your language, consider another form that would. (See: [Doublet](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [and proclaimed](#)
- [a God](#)
- [compassionate](#)
- [and gracious](#)
- [covenant faithfulness](#)

ULT

⁶ And [Yahweh](#) passed over above his face [and proclaimed](#), "[Yahweh, Yahweh, a God compassionate and gracious](#), long of nostril and abounding in [covenant faithfulness and trustworthiness](#),

UST

⁶ [Yahweh](#) passed in front of him [and called out](#), "I am Yahweh God. I always [act mercifully and kindly toward people](#), and I do not get angry quickly. I [abundantly love and faithfully do what I promise for my people](#)."

- and trustworthiness

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh
- I am Yahweh
- I am Yahweh
- and called out
- God
- I always act mercifully and kindly toward people
- I always act mercifully and kindly toward people
- I abundantly love and faithfully do what I promise for my people
- I abundantly love and faithfully do what I promise for my people

Exodus 34:7

keeping covenant faithfulness to thousands (ULT)

I abundantly love people for thousands of generations (UST)

See how you translated **covenant faithfulness** in the previous verse. Alternate translation: “faithfully loving thousands of generations” or “faithful to his covenant with thousands of generations” (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

to thousands (ULT) for thousands of generations (UST)

This large number is used to mean “forever” or “to all descendants forever.” It is deliberately contrasted with **third** and **fourth** later in the verse to emphasize how much longer God’s covenant faithfulness is than his anger. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression from your language that conveys a very long time. Alternate translation: “for every generation” (See: [Hyperbole](#))

to thousands (ULT) for thousands of generations (UST)

The word **thousands** is a metonym for a number too many to count. Alternate translation: “to innumerable people” (See: [Metonymy](#))

iniquity, transgression, and sin (ULT) doing wrong, transgressing, and sinning (UST)

This list is meant to convey the idea of every kind of wrong. If a list like this would be misunderstood in your language you may need to use other terms or forms to make this point. Alternate translation: “every kind of sin” (See: [Litany](#))

iniquity, transgression, and sin...the iniquity of (ULT) doing wrong, transgressing, and sinning...If people do wrong (UST)

If your language does not use abstract nouns for the ideas of **iniquity, transgression, and sin**, you can express the same ideas in another way, as modeled in the UST. (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

But he will surely not acquit (ULT) But I will certainly punish the guilty (UST)

Yahweh is speaking about himself. If this is confusing in your language, you may use the first person. Alternate translation: “But I will certainly not acquit” (See: [First, Second or Third Person](#))

ULT

⁷ keeping [covenant faithfulness](#) to thousands, forgiving [iniquity](#), transgression, [and sin](#). But he will surely not acquit, visiting [the iniquity of the fathers](#) on [the sons](#) and on [the sons of the sons](#), on the third and on the fourth.”

UST

⁷ I abundantly love people for thousands of generations. I forgive people for [doing wrong](#), transgressing, [and sinning](#). But I will certainly punish the guilty. [If people do wrong](#), I cause that to affect [their descendants](#), down to the third and fourth generation.”

But he will surely not acquit (ULT)
But I will certainly punish the guilty (UST)

Whom Yahweh will not acquit is not stated. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. Alternate translations: “But he will certainly not clear the guilty” or “But he will certainly not say that the guilty are innocent” or “But he will certainly not free guilty people” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

the iniquity of (ULT)
If people do wrong (UST)

Here, **iniquity** refers to the consequences or the punishment for iniquity. Alternate translation: “the punishment for the iniquity of” (See: [Metonymy](#))

visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the sons and on the sons of the sons (ULT)
If people do wrong, I cause that to affect their descendants (UST)

The **iniquity of the fathers** is spoken of as if it were something capable of **visiting** people. This means that Yahweh makes the consequences of people’s sins affect their descendants. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “punishing the sons and the sons of the sons for the iniquity of the fathers” (See: [Metaphor](#))

on the sons and on the sons of the sons (ULT)
their descendants (UST)

The references to **sons** and **sons of the sons** represents descendants. Alternate translation: “on their descendants” (See: [Metonymy](#))

on the third and on the fourth (ULT)
down to the third and fourth generation (UST)

Here, “generation” is implied after **third** and **fourth**. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

on the third and on the fourth (ULT)
down to the third and fourth generation (UST)

Here, **third** and **fourth** means “several.” If this would not be understood and your language has a way of referring to an unspecified (but approximately 3-4) number, you may have to use it here. Alternate translation: “on a few generations” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [covenant faithfulness](#)
- [iniquity](#)
- [the iniquity of](#)
- [and sin](#)
- [the fathers](#)

- the sons
- the sons of
- the sons

Translation Words - UST

- I abundantly love people
- doing wrong
- If people do wrong
- and sinning
- If people do wrong
- their descendants
- their descendants
- their descendants

Exodus 34:8

and prostrated himself (ULT) and worshiped Yahweh (UST)

Here, **himself** means that Moses did this action to his own body. Some languages may use a special form to indicate this. (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

and bowed to the ground and prostrated himself (ULT) bowed low down on the ground and worshiped Yahweh (UST)

These two verbs have very similar meanings and are often used together to express people's physical and spiritual posture in worship. If such repetition would be misunderstood in your language, you may need to express the physical action and spiritual action explicitly. Alternate translation: "and bowed to the ground in worship" (See: [Doublet](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [and bowed](#)
- [to the ground](#)
- [and prostrated himself](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [bowed low down](#)
- [on the ground](#)
- [and worshiped Yahweh](#)

ULT

⁸ And [Moses](#) hurried [and bowed to the ground and prostrated himself](#).

UST

⁸ Quickly [Moses bowed low down on the ground and worshiped Yahweh](#).

Exodus 34:9

I have found favor in your eyes (ULT) you are now pleased with me (UST)

Here, **found favor** is an idiom that means that God is pleased with Moses. You may also need to make the phrase active in form and change the abstract noun **favor** into another form. Finally, **eyes** are a metonym for sight, and sight is a metaphor representing his evaluation. See how you dealt with the multiple issues in the phrase **I have found favor in your eyes** in [Exodus 33:12](#). (See: [Idiom](#))

this {is} a people hard of neck (ULT) These...people...are very stubborn (UST)

Moses speaks of the people being rebellious as if they had **hard necks**. See how you translated this in [Exodus 32:9](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

our iniquity and our sin (ULT) for all our sins (UST)

The words **iniquity** and **sin** mean basically the same thing and are combined for emphasis. If your language does not use repetition in this way, you can combine these phrases. Alternate translation: "all our sins" (See: [Doublet](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- favor
- my Lord
- my Lord
- is} a people
- And forgive
- our iniquity
- and our sin
- and inherit us

Translation Words - UST

- My Lord
- you
- you are now pleased with me
- people
- but forgive us
- for all our sins
- for all our sins
- and accept us as the people who belong to you forever

ULT

⁹ And he said, "Please, if I have found favor in your eyes, my Lord, may my Lord please go among us, for this {is} a people hard of neck. And forgive our iniquity and our sin and inherit us."

UST

⁹ He said, "My Lord, if you are now pleased with me, I ask that you go with us. These people are very stubborn, but forgive us for all our sins, and accept us as the people who belong to you forever."

Exodus 34:10

your people

Starting in this verse, the covenant is largely repeated and consists of two parts: (1) what Yahweh will do, which is detailed in verses 10-11 (and briefly restated in verse 24) and (2) what is required of the Israelites, which is detailed in verses 12-26. For further context, see [Exodus 19:5 and following](#), and [23:20-24:8](#). Verses 12-26 are another list of ten commandments.

am about to cut a covenant (ULT) am going to remind you of what I agreed (UST)

To **cut a covenant** means to make a covenant. The terminology refers to ancient rituals around making covenants, which is illustrated in Genesis 15. See the imagery and how you translated there. Alternate translation: “am about to make a covenant” (See: [Idiom](#))

your people (ULT) with the Israelites (UST)

Here, the **people** are referred to as belonging to Moses. This refers to his being their leader. Alternate translation: “the people you lead” (See: [Possession](#))

all of the people that you are in the midst of (ULT) Every nation around them (UST)

This phrase is ambiguous and could refer to: (1) the nations that surrounded Israel or (2) the Israelites (who surrounded Moses). Attempt to maintain the ambiguity if you can; otherwise you may choose one, perhaps following another locally known translation's choice.

for it {is} fear-filling, what I {am} doing with you (ULT) I will do things for you all that will make everyone revere me (UST)

This means that what Yahweh is doing causes people to be afraid. In this case, people will fear Yahweh when they see what he does. Alternate translation: “for what I am doing with you will cause fear”

with you (ULT) for you all (UST)

Here, **you** refers to Moses and the people of Israel. If your language makes a distinction, use a plural form here. (See: [Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a covenant
- your people

ULT

¹⁰ And he said, “Behold, I am about to cut a **covenant**: before all of **your people**, I will do **wonders** that have not **been created** in all of **the earth** and in all of **the nations**. And all of **the people** that you are in the midst of will see the work of **Yahweh**, for it **{is} fear-filling**, what I **{am}** doing with you.

UST

¹⁰ Yahweh replied, “Pay attention! I **am going to remind you of what I agreed with the Israelites**. **{As for me,}** I will perform **great miracles**. **These will be miracles that no one has ever done on the earth in any people group**. **Every nation** around them will see the great things that **I, Yahweh**, will do. I will do things for you all **that will make everyone revere me**.

- the people
- wonders
- have...been created
- the earth
- the nations
- Yahweh
- is} fear-filling

Translation Words - UST

- am going to remind you of what I agreed
- with the Israelites
- Every nation
- great miracles
- These will be miracles that no one has ever done
- on the earth
- in any people group
- I, Yahweh
- that will make everyone revere me

Exodus 34:11

am about to drive out from before your face (ULT)

I will...force...to leave the land for you (UST)

Here, **from before your faces** means “ahead of you” or “on your behalf.” Yahweh is emphasizing who is doing the driving out. (See: [Metonymy](#))

the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites (ULT)
the Amor, Canaan, Heth, Periz, Hiv, and Jebus people groups (UST)

See how you translated these in [Exodus 33:2](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Keep](#)
- [I](#)
- [and the Jebusites](#)
- [am commanding](#)
- [today](#)
- [from before your face](#)
- [the Amorites](#)
- [and the Canaanites](#)
- [and the Hittites](#)
- [and the Perizzites](#)
- [and the Hivites](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Obey](#)
- [I](#)
- [Hiv](#)
- [and Jebus people groups](#)
- [am about to command](#)
- [today](#)
- [I will...force...to leave the land for you](#)
- [the Amor](#)
- [Canaan](#)
- [Heth](#)
- [Periz](#)

ULT

¹¹ [Keep](#) for yourself what I am [commanding today](#). Behold I am about to drive out [from before your face the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites](#).

UST

¹¹ [Obey](#) what I am about to command you [today](#). I will surely [force the Amor, Canaan, Heth, Periz, Hiv, and Jebus people groups to leave the land for you](#).

Exodus 34:12

General Information:

Verses 12-16 are the first of these ten commandments. The original language is structured such that every clause in these verses is subordinate to the initial, **Guard yourself**. That sort of structure may not be possible in your language (as it is not in English).

yourself (ULT)

you (UST)

Here, **yourself** means that each Israelite should guard against committing these sins. (See: [Reflexive Pronouns](#))

lest you cut a covenant with the inhabitant of the land where you are about to go into, lest he become as a trap in your midst (ULT)

that...do not agree to live peacefully with any of the people who live in the land into which you are going. If you do that, {you will begin to do the evil things that they do.} It will be like falling into a trap (UST)

This sentence contains two hypotheticals as a warning. Each is introduced by **lest**. Use a marker in your language that introduces a hypothetical situation, but also see the next note. Alternate translation: "If you were to cut a covenant with the inhabitant of the land where you are about to go into, probably he would become as a trap in your midst." (See: [Hypothetical Situations](#))

lest you cut a covenant with the inhabitant of the land where you are about to go into, lest he become as a trap in your midst (ULT)

that...do not agree to live peacefully with any of the people who live in the land into which you are going. If you do that, {you will begin to do the evil things that they do.} It will be like falling into a trap (UST)

The second of these hypothetical statements is logically dependent on and follows after the first as a result. As you mark these hypotheticals, use a form that communicates that the second is a result of the first. Alternate translation: "because if you cut a covenant with the inhabitant of the land where you are about to go into, then he will become as a trap in your midst" (See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#))

you cut a covenant (ULT)

do...agree to live peacefully (UST)

See how you translated this in [34:10](#). (See: [Idiom](#))

ULT

¹² **Guard** yourself, lest you cut a covenant with the inhabitant of the land where you are about to go into, lest he become as a trap in your midst.

UST

¹² **Be careful** that you do not agree to live peacefully with any of the people who live in the land into which you are going. If you do that, {you will begin to do the evil things that they do.} It will be like falling into a trap.

with the inhabitant of...he become (ULT)
with any of the people who live in the land...you will begin to do the evil things that they do.} It will be like falling into a trap (UST)

The word **inhabitant** is a singular noun that refers to any individual inhabitant or group of inhabitants from the peoples mentioned in the previous verse. The pronoun **he** is agreeing with that singular noun. If your language does not use singular nouns in that way, you can use a different expression. Alternate translation: "with the inhabitants of ... they become" (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

lest he become as a trap in your midst (ULT)
If you do that, {you will begin to do the evil things that they do.} It will be like falling into a trap (UST)

People who tempt others to sin are spoken of as if they were a **trap**. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent comparison or express this meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "lest those remaining people tempt you to sin" (See: [Simile](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Guard](#)
- [a covenant](#)
- [the land](#)
- [as a trap](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Be careful](#)
- [do...agree to live peacefully](#)
- [with any of the people who live in the land](#)
- [you will begin to do the evil things that they do...It will be like falling into a trap](#)

Exodus 34:13

Instead (ULT)

Rather (UST)

This word marks a strong contrast with the previous verse. Use a natural way in your language for introducing a strong contrast. Alternate translation, followed by a new sentence: "Do the opposite!" (See: [Connect — Contrast Relationship](#))

their altars you shall break down, and their pillars you shall smash, and his Asherah poles you shall cut down (ULT)

you must tear down their altars, destroy their idols, and cut down the poles that they use to worship Asherah (UST)

This unusual word order reflects the original in bringing each item the Israelites must destroy into focus. You should use whatever form in your language would emphasize or focus on each item that they must destroy. Alternate translation, as separate sentences: "as for their altars, break them down! As for their stone pillars, smash them to pieces! As for their trees where they worship the goddess Asherah, cut them all down!" (See: [Information Structure](#))

you shall cut down (ULT)

cut down (UST)

For some reason only this pronoun is singular, referring back the singular "inhabitant" in the previous verse. Translate it based on your decision in the previous verse. (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [their altars](#)
- [his Asherah poles](#)
- [you shall cut down](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [their altars](#)
- [cut down](#)
- [and...the poles that they use to worship Asherah](#)

ULT

¹³ Instead, [their altars](#) you shall break down, and their pillars you shall smash, and [his Asherah poles](#) you shall cut down.

UST

¹³ Rather, you must tear down [their altars](#), destroy their idols, and [cut down the poles that they use to worship Asherah](#).

Exodus 34:14

you shall not bow (ULT)
you must not worship (UST)

To **bow to another god** means to worship it. This imagery is throughout scripture and should be retained in translation. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: “you shall not bow to worship” (See: [Symbolic Action](#))

for Yahweh—Jealous {is} his name—he {is} a jealous God (ULT)
because I, Yahweh, am passionate for people to recognize that I am the only true God, like a husband is passionate for his wife to love only him (UST)

The repeated word **jealous** means that God is concerned to keep his honor. If his people worship other gods, he loses honor, because when his people do not honor him, other people also will not honor him. This is pictured in a metaphor of a jealous spouse who is concerned that his spouse be faithful to him. This is an important Biblical metaphor that should be kept in translation if at all possible. The UST makes this image explicit as a simile, which can be done occasionally but would probably be too long for repeated use in a translation. Alternate translation: “Yahweh jealously guards his reputation. He is a God jealous of his honor.” (See: [Metaphor](#))

for Yahweh—Jealous {is} his name (ULT)
because I, Yahweh, am passionate for people to recognize that I am the only true God, like a husband is passionate for his wife to love only him (UST)

Here, the word **name** represents God’s character. Alternate translation: “Yahweh is always jealous” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- you shall...bow
- Yahweh
- Jealous
- jealous
- is} his name
- is} a...God

Translation Words - UST

- you must...worship
- I, Yahweh
- am passionate for people to recognize that I am the only true God, like a husband is passionate for his wife to love only him
- am passionate for people to recognize that I am the only true God, like a husband is passionate for his wife to love only him
- am passionate for people to recognize that I am the only true God, like a husband is passionate for his wife to love only him
- am passionate for people to recognize that I am the only true God, like a husband is passionate for his wife to love only him

ULT

¹⁴ For you shall not bow to another god, for Yahweh—Jealous {is} his name—he {is} a jealous God.

UST

¹⁴ {Do that} because you must not worship any other god, because I, Yahweh, am passionate for people to recognize that I am the only true God, like a husband is passionate for his wife to love only him.

Exodus 34:15

with the inhabitant of...and he invite...from his sacrifice (ULT)
with any of the people who live in the land... they will invite...to join them...the food that they sacrifice to their gods (UST)

The word **inhabitant** is a singular noun that refers to any individual inhabitant or group of inhabitants from the peoples mentioned in the previous verse. The pronouns **he** and **his** are agreeing with that singular noun. If your language does not use singular nouns in that way, you can use a different expression. See how you translated this in [verse 12](#). Alternate translation: “with the inhabitants of ... and they invite ... from their sacrifice” or “with the inhabitants of ... and one of them invites ... from his sacrifice” (See: [Collective Nouns](#))

Lest you cut a covenant with the inhabitant of the land, and they prostitute after their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and he invite you (ULT)

Again,} do not agree to live peacefully with any of the people who live in the land, because when they worship their gods and offer sacrifices to them, they will invite you to join them (UST)

Most of this verse is a sort of chain of logically consecutive hypothetical events that Yahweh is warning the Israelites against. Your language may have a specific way this sort of argument must be structured or phrased. One way to see this would be to repeat **lest** before every verb in verse 15-16. Alternate translation: “If you cut a covenant the inhabitant of the land, and if they then prostitute after their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and if he then invites you” (See: [Hypothetical Situations](#))

Lest you cut a covenant with the inhabitant of the land (ULT)

Again,} do not agree to live peacefully with any of the people who live in the land, because (UST)

This phrase is exactly the same as the second clause of [verse 12](#). It serves as a reminder of the command Yahweh is giving as he begins to expand on the “trap” he mentioned in verse 12. Your language may need to mark this repetition in a particular way. Alternate translation: “Remember: keep yourself lest you cut a covenant with the inhabitant of the land”

you cut a covenant (ULT)

Again,} do...agree to live peacefully (UST)

See how you translated this in [verse 12](#). Alternate translation: “you make a covenant” (See: [Idiom](#))

ULT

¹⁵ Lest you cut a [covenant](#) with the inhabitant of [the land](#), and they [prostitute](#) after their [gods and sacrifice to their gods](#), and he invite you, and you eat [from his sacrifice](#)

UST

¹⁵ {[Again,](#)} do not [agree to live peacefully with any of the people who live in the land](#), because [when they worship their gods and offer sacrifices to them](#), they will invite you to join them. Then you will {[be unfaithful to me and sin by](#)} eating [the food that they sacrifice to their gods](#).

and they prostitute after their..gods (ULT)
when they worship their gods (UST)

In this metaphor, Yahweh speaks of people worshiping other gods as if they were prostitutes going to other men. This metaphor is most often used regarding the unfaithfulness of the Israelites. The metaphor is not quite as clear with the other nations because while Yahweh is the only true God, he is not in special covenant with the other nations as their god. However, since the worship is still impurely following false gods, the metaphor is used here. This is an important Biblical metaphor that should be kept in translation if at all possible. Alternate translation: “and they worship their gods” or “because they worship their gods like prostitutes who go to other men” (See: [Metaphor](#))

and they prostitute after their..gods (ULT)
when they worship their gods (UST)

This phrase may also be seen as a metonymy because sexual sin was a regular part of worshiping false gods. Alternate translation: “and they worship by fornicating with their gods’ cult prostitutes” (See: [Metonymy](#))

and he invite you (ULT)
they will invite you to join them (UST)

Here, what the inhabitant will invite the Israelite to is not stated, but can be inferred from context. At the most basic level it is an invitation to eat food the Israelites were forbidden to eat. It is unclear how much more participation in worshiping false gods is implied. If your language requires that you specify what the Israelite is being invited into you may have to add some information. Alternate translation: “and he will invite you to eat from his sacrifice” or “and he will invite you to a feast to honor his gods” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

and you eat from his sacrifice (ULT)
Then you will {be unfaithful to me and sin by} eating the food that they sacrifice to their gods (UST)

The first part of the sin Yahweh is warning against in this and the next verse is to **eat from his sacrifice**. This clause is the result of disobedience regarding the **covenant** and the logical conclusion of the series of hypothetical events Yahweh presents before this. Alternate translation: “as a result, you will eat from his sacrifice” or “then you will eat from his sacrifice” (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

and you eat from his sacrifice (ULT)
Then you will {be unfaithful to me and sin by} eating the food that they sacrifice to their gods (UST)

Here, **and you eat from his sacrifice** may represent any and all parts of the worship of the other nations’ false gods. If it would be helpful in your language, you could translate the meaning plainly. Alternate translation: “and you feast to honor his gods” (See: [Synecdoche](#))

and you eat from his sacrifice (ULT)
Then you will {be unfaithful to me and sin by} eating the food that they sacrifice to their gods (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express the consequence of eating food that is sacrificed to another god explicitly. Alternate translation: “and you will eat some of his sacrifice and become guilty of worshiping

his gods" or "and you will prostitute yourself to his god by eating some of his sacrifice" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- covenant
- the land
- and they prostitute
- their...gods
- gods...to their
- and sacrifice
- from his sacrifice

Translation Words - UST

- Again...do...agree to live peacefully
- with any of the people who live in the land
- when they worship
- their gods
- to them
- and offer sacrifices
- the food that they sacrifice to their gods

Exodus 34:16

you will eat some of his sacrifice

The string of hypothetical actions, each with its logical result continues throughout this verse. Continue translating the transitions between clauses as you decided in the previous verses. (See: [Connect — Hypothetical Conditions](#))

and his daughters prostitute after their gods

(ULT)

These women will worship their own gods

(UST)

In this metaphor, Yahweh speaks of people worshiping other gods as if they were prostitutes going to other men. This metaphor is most often used regarding the unfaithfulness of the Israelites. The metaphor is not quite as clear with the other nations because while Yahweh is the only true God, he is not in special covenant with the other nations as their god. However, since the worship is still impurely following false gods, the metaphor is used here. This is an important Biblical metaphor that should be kept in translation if at all possible. See how you translated it in the previous verse. Alternate translation: “and his daughters worship their gods” or “and his daughters worship their gods like prostitutes who go to other men” (See: [Metaphor](#))

and cause your sons to prostitute after their gods (ULT)

They will also make your sons be unfaithful to me by worshiping those gods

(UST)

In this metaphor, Yahweh speaks of people worshiping other gods as if they were prostitutes going to other men. The metaphor is clear here since it is referring to Israelite men who should be Yahweh worshipers. This is an important Biblical metaphor that should be kept in translation if at all possible. Alternate translation: “and cause your sons to worship their gods” or “and cause your sons to worship their gods like prostitutes who go to other men” (See: [Metaphor](#))

and cause your sons to prostitute after their gods (ULT)

They will also make your sons be unfaithful to me by worshiping those gods

(UST)

This is the climatic consequence of living in peace the nations God is driving out before them: complete apostasy from Yahweh and loss of the next generation to wickedness. Specifically it is the result of intermarriage with the pagans, which God has explicitly forbidden for this very reason. If your language marks the final consequence of a string of actions in a particular way it may be appropriate to use it here. Alternate translation: “and in the end, they will cause even your sons to prostitute after their gods” (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [for your sons](#)
- [your sons](#)
- [and...prostitute](#)
- [and cause...to prostitute](#)
- [their gods](#)
- [their gods](#)

ULT

¹⁶ and take from his daughters [for your sons](#), and his daughters [prostitute](#) after [their gods](#) and [cause your sons to prostitute](#) after [their gods](#).

UST

¹⁶ Then you will {sin by} having some of their women to be wives [for your sons](#). These women [will worship their own gods](#). [They will also make your sons be unfaithful to me by worshiping those gods](#).

Translation Words - UST

- for your sons
- your sons
- will worship
- They will also make...be unfaithful to me by worshiping
- their own gods
- those gods

Exodus 34:17

you will eat some of his sacrifice

The prohibition here is focused on making gods. In your translation make sure that the focus is not on the method, but the god-making.

molten metal (ULT) by pouring melted metal into statue molds (UST)

See how you translated **molten metal** in [Exodus 32:4](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [gods of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [gods](#)

ULT

¹⁷ Do not make for yourselves [gods of](#) molten metal.

UST

¹⁷ Do not make your own [gods](#) by pouring melted metal into statue molds.

Exodus 34:18

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to most of [Exodus 23:15](#).

seven (ULT) for seven (UST)

Alternate translation: "7" (See: [Numbers](#))

Aviv...Aviv (ULT) Aviv...Aviv (UST)

This is the name of the first month of the Hebrew calendar. **Aviv** is during the last part of March and the first part of April on Western calendars. See how you translated **Aviv** in [Exodus 13:4](#). You could convert the Hebrew day and month into an approximate date on the calendar that your culture uses. However, the Jews used a lunar calendar, so if you use a solar calendar, the date will be different every year and the translation will not be entirely accurate. So you may just want to give the number of the day and the name of the month on the Hebrew calendar, and say approximately what time of year that is on your calendar in a footnote.(See: [Hebrew Months](#))

ULT

¹⁸ You shall keep [the Festival of Unleavened Bread](#). You shall eat [unleavened bread](#) seven days, which I commanded you, at the appointed time, the month of Aviv, for in the month of Aviv you came out from Egypt.

UST

¹⁸ Celebrate [the Feast of Unleavened Bread](#) the way that I commanded you: eat [unleavened bread](#) for seven days in the month called Aviv. I set this time because Aviv is the month when you left Egypt.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Festival of](#)
- [Unleavened Bread](#)
- [unleavened bread](#)
- [days](#)
- [I commanded you](#)
- [at the appointed time](#)
- [the month of](#)
- [in the month of](#)
- [from Egypt](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Feast of](#)
- [Unleavened Bread](#)
- [unleavened bread](#)
- [I commanded you](#)
- [days](#)
- [in the month called](#)
- [is the month when](#)
- [I set this time](#)
- [Egypt](#)

Exodus 34:19

General Information:

This verse is similar to [Exodus 13:12](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the womb
- your...livestock
- cattle
- and...sheep

Translation Words - UST

- your firstborn sons
- of your domesticated animals
- cows
- sheep, and goats

ULT

¹⁹ All of the openers of [the womb](#) are mine {even from} all of your male [livestock](#), the openers of [cattle](#) and of [sheep](#).

UST

¹⁹ All [your firstborn sons](#) belong to me. All the firstborn males [of your domesticated animals](#), [cows](#), [sheep](#), and [goats](#), belong to me.

Exodus 34:20

buy back

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 13:13](#).

with a lamb...then you shall break his neck**(ULT)****by killing a lamb instead of it...you must kill the donkey by breaking its neck (UST)**

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express explicitly that either the **lamb** or **donkey** must be killed, as in the UST. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

you do not ransom it (ULT)**you do not buy it back (UST)**

Alternate translation: "you do not ransom the donkey"

You shall ransom all the firstborn of your sons (ULT)**You must buy back every one of your firstborn sons (UST)**

Firstborn sons and firstborn donkeys belonged to Yahweh, but Yahweh did not want them sacrificed to Him. Instead, the Israelites were to sacrifice a lamb in their place. This allowed the Israelites to buy the donkeys and sons back from Yahweh.

And you shall not appear at my face empty-handed (ULT)**Do not come to worship me without bringing an offering (UST)**

Here understatement is used to emphasize that the Israelites must bring a suitable offering to Yahweh. This portion of the verse is identical to the end of [Exodus 23:15](#). If this double negative would be misunderstood in your language, you could translate it as a positive statement. Alternate translation: "come to me without a proper offering" or "always bring an offering to me" (See: [Double Negatives](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- a donkey
- you shall ransom
- you do...ransom it
- You shall ransom
- with a lamb
- the firstborn of
- your sons

Translation Words - UST

- donkey
- you must buy it back
- you do...buy it back

ULT

²⁰ And the opener of a donkey you shall ransom with a lamb. And if you do not ransom it, then you shall break his neck. You shall ransom all the firstborn of your sons. And you shall not appear at my face empty-handed.

UST

²⁰ In the case of a firstborn donkey, you must buy it back by killing a lamb instead of it. If you do not buy it back, you must kill the donkey by breaking its neck. You must buy back every one of your firstborn sons. Do not come to worship me without bringing an offering.

- You must buy back
- by killing a lamb instead of it
- of your firstborn
- sons

Exodus 34:21

General Information:

This command is similar to that in [Exodus 20:9](#).

but on the seventh day (ULT) but on the seventh day (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: “but on day seven” (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

In plowing time and in harvest time (ULT) Even during the times when you are plowing the ground or harvesting your crops (UST)

Alternate translation: “Even when you are preparing the soil or gathering the crops”

Translation Words - ULT

- [days](#)
- [but on...day](#)
- [you shall labor](#)
- [you shall rest](#)
- [you shall rest](#)
- [In plowing time](#)
- [and in harvest time](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Work](#)
- [days](#)
- [but on...day](#)
- [you must rest](#)
- [you must rest on the seventh day](#)
- [Even during the times when you are plowing the ground](#)
- [or harvesting your crops](#)

ULT

²¹ Six [days](#) you shall labor, but on the seventh [day](#) you shall rest. In [plowing time](#) and in [harvest time](#), you shall rest.

UST

²¹ [Work](#) six [days](#) {each week}, but on the seventh [day](#) you must rest. Even during the times when you are [plowing the ground](#) or [harvesting your crops](#), you must rest on the seventh [day](#).

Exodus 34:22

Festival of Ingathering

This verse is similar to [Exodus 23:16](#), however the first festival is named **Festival of Weeks** here and “Festival of the Harvest” in 23:16.

and the Festival of the Gathering (ULT) and...have the Finished Harvest Celebration (UST)

This festival celebrated the final harvesting of all the crops for the year. This festival was also known as the Festival of Shelters or the Festival of Booths. The idea came from the practice of the farmers living in temporary booths, or huts, out in the fields to guard the crop as it ripened. See Deuteronomy 16:13. See how you translated this in [Exodus 23:16](#). Alternate translation: “and the Festival of the Ingathering”

at the turning of the year (ULT) at the end of the year (UST)

Like “the exiting of the year” in [Exodus 23:16](#), this refers to the end of the year. Here, the year is pictured as something that can turn. Which, thinking of the planet, is highly astronomically accurate. (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And...the Festival of Weeks](#)
- [with} the first-fruits of](#)
- [the harvest of](#)
- [the wheat](#)
- [and the Festival of](#)
- [the year](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [In the spring,} when you begin to harvest the first wheat crop](#)
- [In the spring...when you begin to harvest the first wheat crop](#)
- [In the spring...when you begin to harvest the first wheat crop](#)
- [the Celebration of Weeks](#)
- [at the end of the year](#)
- [and...have the Finished Harvest Celebration](#)

ULT

²² And you shall keep for yourself [the Festival of Weeks](#) {with} [the first-fruits of the harvest of the wheat](#), and the [Festival of the Gathering](#) at the turning of [the year](#).

UST

²² {[In the spring,](#)} when you begin to [harvest the first wheat crop](#), have the [Celebration of Weeks](#), and [at the end of the year](#) have the [Finished Harvest Celebration](#).

Exodus 34:23

General Information:

Except for **God of Israel** and dropping “to,” this verse is identical to [Exodus 23:17](#).

shall appear...before the face of the Lord (ULT) must gather together..to worship me, the Lord (UST)

Here to **appear before the face of the Lord Yahweh** means to gather to worship. **Before the face** is a metonym for Yahweh’s presence, referring to worship. Alternate translation: “must come to worship the Lord” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Lord](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [God of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [me, the Lord](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the Israelite’s](#)
- [God](#)

ULT

²³ Three times in a year, all your males shall appear before the face of [the Lord Yahweh, God of Israel](#).

UST

²³ Three times every year, all the men must gather together to worship [me, the Lord Yahweh, the Israelite’s God](#).

Exodus 34:24

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- I will drive out
- nations
- your land
- Yahweh
- your God
- in a year

Translation Words - UST

- I will force...to leave
- the people groups
- your country
- Yahweh
- your God
- each year

ULT

²⁴ For I will drive out nations before your face and expand your borders. And a man will not desire your land when you go up to appear before the face of Yahweh your God three times in a year.

UST

²⁴ Surely, I will force the people groups to leave the land you are going to, and I will make your territory larger. No one will want {to try to conquer} your country while the men come to worship Yahweh your God for these three festivals each year.

Exodus 34:25

General Information:

See the very similar [Exodus 23:18](#).

the blood of my sacrifice (ULT) blood from an animal sacrifice (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express the fact that the blood is from an animal explicitly. Alternate translation: “the blood of an animal that you sacrifice to me” (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the blood of
- my sacrifice
- the sacrifice of
- leavened bread
- the Festival of
- the Passover

Translation Words - UST

- bread you made with yeast
- blood
- from an animal sacrifice
- the...any part of...animals you sacrificed
- the...at...Passover celebration
- the...at...Passover celebration

ULT

²⁵ You shall not slaughter [the blood of my sacrifice](#) with [leavened bread](#), and [the sacrifice of the Festival of the Passover](#) shall not remain all night to the morning.

UST

²⁵ Do not sacrifice [bread you made with yeast](#) along with [blood from an animal sacrifice](#). Do not keep until the next morning [any part of the animals you sacrificed](#) at the [Passover celebration](#).

Exodus 34:26

the blood of my sacrifice

This verse is identical to [Exodus 23:19](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- first fruits of
- to the house of
- Yahweh
- your God
- a young goat

Translation Words - UST

- what you harvest first
- to the place where you worship...and give it to
- me...me, Yahweh
- your God
- a young animal...it...it

ULT

²⁶ You shall bring the first of the first fruits of your ground to the house of Yahweh your God. You shall not boil a young goat in the milk of its mother.”

UST

²⁶ {Each year, when you harvest your crops,} take the best of what you harvest first, go to the place where you worship me, and give it to me, Yahweh your God. {When you kill} a young animal, do not cook it by boiling it in its mother’s milk.”

Exodus 34:27

words...for over the mouth of these (ULT)
the words...By giving you these commands (UST)

Alternate translation: "for in accordance with these words" or "for according to these words"

I have cut a covenant with you (ULT)
I have made an agreement with you (UST)

See how you translated this in [verse 12](#). (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [a covenant](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [an agreement](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

ULT

²⁷ And [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Write these words for yourself, for over the mouth of these words I have cut [a covenant](#) with you and with [Israel](#)."

UST

²⁷ [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#), "Write down the words that I have told you. By giving you these commands, I have made [an agreement](#) with you and with [the Israelites](#)."

Exodus 34:28**ten (ULT)****Ten (UST)**Alternate translation: "10" (See: [Numbers](#))**40 days and 40 nights (ULT)****for 40 days and nights (UST)**

Alternate translation: "for 40 days, including the nights"

And he wrote (ULT)**He engraved (UST)**

Here, **he** probably refers to Moses, based on Yahweh's command in the previous verse. However, [Exodus 34:1](#) opens the possibility that Yahweh wrote. It is best to leave it ambiguous, but if you must specify, saying Moses is better. Alternate translation: "Moses wrote" (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [days](#)
- [bread](#)
- [and water](#)
- [the covenant](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [days](#)
- [During that time he did not eat](#)
- [or drink anything](#)
- [which were part of Yahweh's solemn agreement](#)

ULT

²⁸ And he was there with [Yahweh](#) 40 [days](#) and 40 nights; [bread](#) he did not eat [and water](#) he did not drink. And he wrote on the tablets the words of [the covenant](#), the ten words.

UST

²⁸ Moses was there {on the top of the mountain} with [Yahweh](#) for 40 [days](#) and nights. [During that time he did not eat or drink anything](#). He engraved on the stone slabs the words of the Ten Commandments [which were part of Yahweh's solemn agreement](#).

Exodus 34:29

**And it happened (ULT)
When...came back down (UST)**

This marks a change of scene which you should mark in a natural way in your language. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

**And it happened, as Moses {was} descending from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in the hand of Moses as he {was} descending from the mountain (ULT)
When Moses came back down from Mount Sinai he was carrying the two stone slabs on which he had written the Ten Commandments (UST)**

The statement about Moses' descent from the mountain is repeated almost verbatim, but does not refer to two events. If this would be misunderstood you may need to state it only once in translation as in the UST. Alternate translation: "Then Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he was coming down from the mountain, he was carrying the two tablets of the testimony in his hands." (See: [Information Structure](#))

**that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while speaking with him (ULT)
His face was very bright from talking to Yahweh, but he did not know it (UST)**

In some languages it will make more sense to state that Moses' **face shone** before saying that he **did not know that** as in the UST. (See: [Information Structure](#))

**shone (ULT)
was very bright (UST)**

Alternate translation: "became radiant"

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [that Moses](#)
- [did...know](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [he was carrying](#)
- [but](#)
- [he did...know](#)

ULT

²⁹ And it happened, as [Moses](#) {was} descending from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in the hand of [Moses](#) as he {was} descending from the mountain, [that Moses](#) did not [know](#) that the skin of his face shone while speaking with him.

UST

²⁹ When [Moses](#) came back down from Mount Sinai [he was carrying](#) the two stone slabs on which he had written the Ten Commandments. His face was very bright from talking to Yahweh, [but he did not know](#) it.

Exodus 34:30

And they were afraid (ULT) and were afraid (UST)

They were afraid because of his bright face. Alternate translation: "because of that, they were afraid" (See: [Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- the sons of
- Israel
- Moses
- And they were afraid

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- and the Israelites
- and the Israelites
- Moses
- and were afraid

ULT

³⁰ And Aaron and all of the sons of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone! And they were afraid to come near to him.

UST

³⁰ When Aaron and the Israelites saw Moses, they were amazed that his face was bright, and were afraid to approach him.

Exodus 34:31

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- Moses
- And...called
- Aaron
- the leaders
- among the congregation
- and...returned

Translation Words - UST

- But...summoned
- Moses
- he
- Aaron
- and the other Israelite leaders
- and the other Israelite leaders
- and...came back

ULT

³¹ And Moses called to them, and Aaron and all of the leaders among the congregation returned to him. And Moses spoke to them.

UST

³¹ But Moses summoned them, and Aaron and the other Israelite leaders came back to him, and he talked with them.

Exodus 34:32

**all of...and he commanded them all that
Yahweh had spoken with him (ULT)**

**all...and Moses told them all that Yahweh had
commanded him (UST)**

This means that Moses commanded the Israelites to obey everything Yahweh had commanded Moses to command the Israelites to do.

Translation Words - ULT

- the sons of
- Israel
- and he commanded them
- Yahweh
- on Mount Sinai

Translation Words - UST

- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- and Moses told them
- Yahweh
- on Mount Sinai

ULT

³² And after this, all of the sons of Israel approached, and he commanded them all that Yahweh had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

UST

³² Afterwards, all the Israelites came near, and Moses told them all that Yahweh had commanded him on Mount Sinai.

Exodus 34:33

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- a veil

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- a thin cloth

ULT

³³ And Moses finished from speaking with them, and he put a veil over his face.

UST

³³ When Moses finished talking to the people, he covered his face with a thin cloth.

Exodus 34:34

he would remove

This and the next verse give a general statement about Moses's practice for an unstated amount of time (it was probably from this point until his death as he continued to talk to Yahweh). You should mark this with a form in your language that is used for on-going action like **would** or the UST's "Whenever." (See: [Connect — Background Information](#))

he had been commanded (ULT) had commanded him (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "Yahweh had commanded him" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [before the face of](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [And he would come out](#)
- [he had been commanded](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Whenever Moses](#)
- [with](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [When he came back](#)
- [had commanded him](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)
- [the Israelite people](#)

ULT

³⁴ And whenever [Moses](#) went [before the face of Yahweh](#) to speak with him, he would remove the veil until he came out. [And he would come out](#), and he would speak to [the sons of Israel](#) what [he had been commanded](#).

UST

³⁴ [Whenever Moses](#) entered the tent of meeting to talk [with Yahweh](#), he would remove the cloth. [When he came back](#) out, he would always tell [the Israelite people](#) everything that Yahweh [had commanded him](#) to tell them.

Exodus 34:35

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the sons of
- Israel
- the face of
- the face of (2)
- his face
- Moses
- Moses
- Moses
- And...would put...back

Translation Words - UST

- The Israelites
- The Israelites
- Moses
- Moses
- he
- face
- face (2)
- his face
- Then...would put...again

ULT

³⁵ And the sons of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of the face of Moses shone. And Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with him.

UST

³⁵ The Israelites would see that Moses' face was still bright. Then he would put the cloth on his face again until the next time that he went to talk with Yahweh.

Exodus 35

Exodus 35 General Notes

Structure

\r - v. 1-3: reiteration of Sabbath command\r - v. 4-9: list of materials for donation (see [Exodus 25:1-7](#))\r - v. 10-19: things they need to make for the Dwelling complex\r - v. 20-29: the people bring all the things listed\r - v. 30-36:1: appointing of lead craftsmen to build these things

Translation Issues in this Chapter

- In the last chapter some repetition of Yahweh's instructions began, mostly around the covenant commands. Starting in this chapter and even more so in chapter 36, the commands regarding the construction of the Dwelling complex are repeated, often word for word, from chapters 25-31. In many verses the only difference will be a change of verb form from instruction to completion. As much as possible, these parallels will be pointed out for the translators with links to the previous verses. Translators should refer back to the previously translated verses for consistency and because notes in this section may not cover everything that was covered in the initial instruction section.
- Many items, materials, and processes for building the Dwelling may be unknown, but should have already been addressed in chapters 25-31.

Exodus 35:1

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- And...assembled
- the congregation of
- the sons of
- Israel
- Yahweh
- has commanded

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- together
- gathered
- the Israelites
- the Israelites
- Yahweh
- has commanded

ULT

¹ And Moses assembled all the congregation of the sons of Israel and said to them, "These are the things that Yahweh has commanded you to do.

UST

¹ Moses gathered all the Israelites together and said to them, "This is what Yahweh has commanded you to do.

Exodus 35:2

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 31:15](#).

Six (ULT)
Each week...for six (UST)

Alternate translation: "6" (See: [Numbers](#))

but on the seventh day (ULT)
but on the seventh day (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "but on day 7" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

Six days shall work be done (ULT)
Each week} you may work for six days (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "Six days you shall work" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Every doer of work on it shall be put to death (ULT)
You must execute anyone who does any work on the seventh day (UST)

If your language would not use passive here, you could state this in an active form. Alternate translation: "You must execute anyone who works on that day" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- days
- but on...day
- work
- a holy
- Sabbath of
- rest
- to Yahweh
- work
- shall be put to death

Translation Words - UST

- you may work
- days
- but on...day
- you must rest
- you must rest
- sacred day
- dedicated to Yahweh
- who does any work
- You must execute

ULT

² Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day {there} shall be for you a holy Sabbath of rest to Yahweh. Every doer of work on it shall be put to death.

UST

² {Each week} you may work for six days, but on the seventh day, you must rest. It is a sacred day for you, dedicated to Yahweh. You must execute anyone who does any work on the seventh day.

Exodus 35:3

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- a fire
- on the days of
- the Sabbath

Translation Words - UST

- a fire
- the rest
- on...days

ULT

³ You shall not kindle a fire in any of your dwellings on the days of the Sabbath."

UST

³ Do not light a fire in your homes on the rest days."

Exodus 35:4

General Information:

In verses 4-9, Moses tells the Israelites to collect the things Yahweh commanded him to collect in [Exodus 25:2-7](#). You should check your translation for consistency between these passages.

**And Moses said to all of the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, “This {is} the thing that Yahweh commanded, saying (ULT)
Moses also said to all the gathered Israelites, “This is what Yahweh has commanded (UST)**

Verses 5-19 are a second-level direct quotation. If it would be better to reduce the quotation level in your language, you may want to make this introductory comment (everything after the first **saying**) an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: “And Moses told all of the congregation of the sons of Israel the things that Yahweh commanded, saying,” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

ULT

⁴ And [Moses](#) said to all of [the congregation of the sons of Israel](#), saying, “This {is} the thing that [Yahweh commanded](#), saying,

UST

⁴ [Moses](#) also said to all [the gathered Israelites](#), “This is what [Yahweh has commanded](#):

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [the congregation of](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [commanded](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the gathered](#)
- [Israelites](#)
- [Israelites](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [has commanded](#)

Exodus 35:5

General Information:

This verse is similar to [Exodus 25:2-3](#).

**Take from with you a contribution for Yahweh (ULT)
should bring Yahweh a gift (UST)**

Alternate translation: "Take up a collection for Yahweh from what you have"

**every{one} (ULT)
Everyone (UST)**

Here, "from" is omitted but suggested by the sentence grammar. Also, **every** means "every person." If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. Alternate translation: "from every person" (See: [Ellipsis](#))

**every{one} willing of his heart (ULT)
Everyone who wants to (UST)**

This is an idiom that indicates a person's desire to give an offering. Many languages will have a similar idiom, though the body part often varies. Alternate translation: "from everyone who wants to give one" (See: [Idiom](#))

General Information:

After this verse, a list begins. You may need to mark the end of this verse with punctuation or another way that your language marks the start of a list.

Translation Words - ULT

- [for Yahweh](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [his heart](#)
- [the contribution of](#)
- [gold](#)
- [and silver](#)
- [and bronze](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [who wants to](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [these sorts of gifts](#)
- [gold](#)
- [silver](#)
- [or bronze](#)

ULT

⁵ Take from with you a contribution for Yahweh, every{one} willing of his heart. Let him bring the contribution of Yahweh: gold and silver and bronze

UST

⁵ Everyone who wants to should bring Yahweh a gift. They should bring these sorts of gifts to Yahweh: gold, silver, or bronze,

Exodus 35:6

General Information:

This verse is identical to [Exodus 25:4](#).

**and blue and purple and worm of scarlet (ULT)
cloth dyed} blue, {cloth dyed} purple, {cloth
dyed} bright red (UST)**

This could mean: (1) “material that is dyed blue, purple, and scarlet,” probably wool yarn, or (2) “blue, purple and scarlet dye” to dye the linen. The original audience would have known what was meant. This material seems to have been used for embroidery later, so “yarn” or “thread” may be the best understanding. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

**and worm of scarlet (ULT)
cloth dyed} bright red (UST)**

A bright red color for dying cloth was extracted from these worms. Alternate translation: “and bright red” (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and purple](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [cloth dyed} purple](#)

ULT

⁶ and blue [and purple](#) and worm of scarlet and fine linen and goats' hair

UST

⁶ {cloth dyed} blue, {cloth dyed} purple, {cloth dyed} bright red, fine linen, {cloth made from} goats' hair,

Exodus 35:7

General Information:

This verse is identical to [Exodus 25:5](#).

reddened (ULT)

red (UST)

When animal skins are tanned (processed into usable leather), they become reddish. It is not clear if these hides are dyed red or simply reddened in the tanning process. Alternate translation: "tanned"
(See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

sea-cows (ULT)

fine leather hides (UST)

The meaning of this word is not known; it may refer to some water mammal that has skin that can be made into a high-quality leather. [Sea cows on Wikipedia](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

acacias (ULT)

hard wood from acacia trees (UST)

A small tree with spreading foliage and durable wood. [See on Wikipedia](#) (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [rams](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [ram](#)

ULT

⁷ and reddened hides of [rams](#) and hides of sea-cows and wood of acacias

UST

⁷ red [ram](#) skins, fine leather hides, hard wood from acacia trees,

Exodus 35:8

General Information:

Except for several uses of the word **and**, this verse is identical to [Exodus 25:6](#).

and spices (ULT) spices (UST)

Here, **spices** are made from parts of plants that people dry and then grind into a powder to put in oil or food, giving it a particular smell or flavor. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and oil](#)
- [anointing](#)
- [and for the incense of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [olive} oil](#)
- [to put in the...olive} oil for anointing...the priests](#)
- [and spices to put in the sweet-smelling incense](#)

ULT

⁸ [and oil](#) for the light and spices for the oil of [anointing and for the incense of](#) fragrance

UST

⁸ [{olive} oil](#) to burn in the lamps, spices [to put in the {olive} oil for anointing {the priests}, and spices to put in the sweet-smelling incense,](#)

Exodus 35:9

General Information:

Except for an initial **and**, this verse is identical to [Exodus 25:7](#).

and stones of onyx (ULT) onyx stones and (UST)

An **onyx stone** is a valuable stone that has layers of white and black, red, or brown. If this stone is unknown to your people, consider translating it by using a word for a familiar stone with a similar pattern, if possible. (See: [Translate Unknowns](#))

and precious stones for (ULT) other expensive stones (UST)

Alternate translation: “and valuable gems for” or “and treasured gems for”

Translation Words - ULT

- [and precious stones for](#)
- [for the ephod](#)
- [and for the breastpiece](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [other expensive stones](#)
- [apron](#)
- [and to put on the chest pouch that is on the apron](#)

ULT

⁹ and stones of onyx and precious stones for settings for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

UST

⁹ onyx stones and other expensive stones to fasten to the priest's sacred apron and to put on the chest pouch that is on the apron.

Exodus 35:10

And all of the wise of heart (ULT)

All the skilled workmen (UST)

Here, **heart** and **spirit** are both referring to things innately possessed by a person, that is, traits of a person. The phrase essentially means “a talented craftsman.” If this is unclear to your readers you may consider making it more explicit. See how you translated this in [Exodus 28:3](#). Alternate translation: “And every man with a skill” (See: [Metonymy](#))

has commanded (ULT)

has commanded {you to make (UST)

Here, some the words that a sentence would need to be complete in some languages are left out. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context, as modeled in the UST. (See: [Ellipsis](#))

Every skilled man

After this verse, a list begins. You may need to mark the end of this verse with punctuation or another way that your language marks the start of a list.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the wise of](#)
- [heart](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [has commanded](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the skilled workmen](#)
- [the skilled workmen](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [has commanded {you to make](#)

ULT

¹⁰ And all of [the wise of heart](#) among you shall come and make all that [Yahweh has commanded](#)—

UST

¹⁰ All [the skilled workmen](#) among you should come and make all the things that [Yahweh has commanded {you to make}](#):

Exodus 35:11**its covering (ULT)****its covering (UST)**

See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:14](#).

its clasps (ULT)**fasteners (UST)**

The **clasps** fit into the loops to hold the curtains together. See how you translated these in [Exodus 26:6](#).

its frames (ULT)**frames (UST)**

See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:15](#).

its bars (ULT)**crossbars (UST)**

See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:26](#).

its pillars (ULT)**posts (UST)**

See how you translated this in [26:32](#).

its bases (ULT)**bases (UST)**

These are heavy objects that rest on the ground and keep the object attached to them from moving. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:19](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)
- [its tent](#)
- [its pillars](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)
- [with the inner tent](#)
- [posts](#)

ULT

11 [the Dwelling](#), [its tent](#) and its covering, its clasps and its frames, its bars, [its pillars](#) and its bases,

UST

11 [the sacred tent with the inner tent](#); its covering, fasteners, frames, crossbars, [posts](#), and bases;

Exodus 35:12

atonement lid

See how you translated these terms in [25:10-17](#) and [26:36](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the box
- the atonement lid
- the curtain of

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred chest
- and its lid
- the curtain that will separate the Holy Place from the Very Holy Place

ULT

¹² the box and its poles, the atonement lid and the curtain of covering,

UST

¹² the sacred chest with its poles and its lid, the curtain that will separate the Holy Place from the Very Holy Place,

Exodus 35:13**the bread of the faces (ULT)
sacred bread...to present before God (UST)**

Here, **face** figuratively represents the presence of Yahweh. This bread represented the presence of God. Alternate translation: “the bread of the Presence” See how you translated this in [Exodus 25:30](#). (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the bread of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [sacred bread](#)

ULT

¹³ the table and its poles and all of its equipment and [the bread of](#) the faces

UST

¹³ the table with the poles for carrying it and all its utensils, the [sacred bread](#) to present before God,

Exodus 35:14

bread of the presence

See [25:31-37](#) for these items.

Translation Words - ULT

- the lampstand of
- its lamps
- the oil of

Translation Words - UST

- the lampstand
- lamps
- the oil...to burn} for

ULT

¹⁴ and the lampstand of the light and its utensils and its lamps and the oil of the light

UST

¹⁴ the lampstand for making light with its implements and lamps, the oil {to burn} for light,

Exodus 35:15

the altar of incense...the oil of anointing...the incense of fragrance (ULT)

the altar for...burning...incense...the oil for...anointing...the sweet-smelling incense (UST)

For the **altar**, see 30:1. For the **oil**, see 30:25. For the **incense**, see 30:7.

Translation Words - ULT

- the altar of incense
- the oil of
- the incense of
- the curtain of
- the Dwelling

Translation Words - UST

- the altar for...burning...incense
- the oil for
- incense
- the curtain
- the sacred tent

ULT

¹⁵ and the altar of incense and its poles and the oil of anointing and the incense of fragrance and the curtain of the entrance for the entrance of the Dwelling,

UST

¹⁵ the altar for {burning} incense and the poles {for carrying the altar}, the oil for anointing and the sweet-smelling incense, the curtain for the entrance of the sacred tent,

Exodus 35:16

bronze grate

For the **grate**, see [Exodus 27:4](#). Most of the rest of the verse is almost identical to [30:28](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- altar of
- the burnt offering
- bronze

Translation Words - UST

- the altar
- for burning sacrifices
- bronze

ULT

16 the altar of the burnt offering and the grate of bronze that {is} for it, its poles and all of its utensils, the basin and its base,

UST

16 the altar for burning sacrifices and its bronze grating, the poles {for carrying the altar}, and all its implements, the washbasin and its base,

Exodus 35:17

the curtains of...the curtain of (ULT)
the curtains to surround...the curtain for the (UST)

These were large curtains made of cloth. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:36](#).

its pillars (ULT)
and the posts (UST)

These were strong pieces of wood set upright and used as supports. See how you translated these in [Exodus 27:10](#).

bases (ULT)
bases {for the posts to support the curtains (UST)}

These were blocks that had a slot in them to keep the board in place. See how you translated this in [Exodus 26:19](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the curtains of
- the curtain of
- the courtyard
- the courtyard
- its pillars
- the gate of

Translation Words - UST

- the curtains to surround
- the curtain for the
- the courtyard
- the courtyard
- and the posts
- entrance to

ULT

¹⁷ the curtains of the courtyard, its pillars and bases and the curtain of the gate of the courtyard,

UST

¹⁷ the curtains to surround the courtyard and the posts and bases {for the posts to support the curtains}; the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard;

Exodus 35:18

the tent pegs of...the pegs of (ULT) the pegs...the pegs (UST)

These were sharp pieces of wood or metal used to secure the corners of a tent to the ground. See how you translated this in [Exodus 27:19](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)
- [the courtyard](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [for the sacred tent](#)
- [its courtyard](#)

ULT

¹⁸ the tent pegs of [the Dwelling](#) and the pegs of [the courtyard](#) and their ropes,

UST

¹⁸ the pegs and ropes [for the sacred tent](#) and [its courtyard](#),

Exodus 35:19

finely-woven garments

Except for **for serving in the Holy Place** and two “ands,” this verse is identical to [31:10](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- in the Holy Place
- holiness
- for Aaron
- the priest
- to {be} priests
- his sons

Translation Words - UST

- sacred
- for Aaron
- his sons
- to wear when...as priests
- to wear when...as priests
- in the Holy Place

ULT

19 finely-woven clothing for serving in the Holy Place, the clothing of holiness for Aaron the priest and the clothing of his sons, to {be} priests.”

UST

19 the beautiful, sacred vestments for Aaron and his sons to wear when they work as priests in the Holy Place.”

Exodus 35:20

**from before the face of Moses (ULT)
from where they had gathered {to listen} to
Moses (UST)**

Alternate translation: "from Moses" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

²⁰ And all of the congregation of [the sons of Israel](#) went away from before the face of [Moses](#).

UST

²⁰ Then all [the Israelites](#) left from where they had gathered {to listen} to [Moses](#).

Exodus 35:21

**And every man whose heart lifted him came.
And all whose spirit impelled him brought
(ULT)
Everyone who wished to bring...did so. They
brought (UST)**

These two phrases parallel each other and mean the same thing. It would be good to keep this poetic repetition in your translation unless it would be misunderstood. If repetition here would not highlight the joyful giving spirit of the Israelites in your language, you may need to combine the phrases. Alternate translation: "Everyone who was motivated, body and soul, came and gave" (See: [Parallelism](#))

**And every man whose heart lifted him came.
And all whose spirit impelled him brought (ULT)
Everyone who wished to bring...did so. They brought (UST)**

Here, **heart** and **spirit** both refer to a person's will, their desire to do something. Many languages will have similar expressions, perhaps using different body and spirit words or concepts which you can use. If your language would not express a person's will in this way, you could translate the meaning. Alternate translation: "And every man whose will lifted him came, and all who felt impelled brought" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

**whose heart lifted him (ULT)
who wished to (UST)**

Here, **heart lifted** is a metaphor for being willing or excited. Many languages will have similar expressions, perhaps using a different body part or a different action. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "who was excited" (See: [Metaphor](#))

**every man whose heart lifted him...And all whose spirit impelled him (ULT)
Everyone who wished to (UST)**

Here, **man**, **whose**, and **him** all refer to men and women in a general way. This is made explicit in the next verse. If your readers might misunderstand this, you may use terms that include men and women. (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

**and for the clothing of holiness (ULT)
and the sacred vestments for the priests (UST)**

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **holiness** in another way. See how you translated this in [28:2](#). Alternate translation: "and for the holy clothing" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

• [heart](#)

ULT

²¹ And every man whose [heart](#) lifted him came. And all whose [spirit](#) impelled him brought the contribution of [Yahweh](#) for the work of [the tent of meeting](#) and for all of [its service](#) and for the clothing of [holiness](#).

UST

²¹ Everyone who [wished to](#) bring a gift to [Yahweh](#) did so. They brought things to make [the sacred tent](#), all [the other items for rituals](#), and [the sacred vestments for the priests](#).

- spirit
- Yahweh
- the tent of meeting
- its service
- holiness

Translation Words - UST

- wished to
- wished to
- to Yahweh
- the sacred tent
- the other items for rituals
- and the sacred vestments for the priests

Exodus 35:22

all impelled of heart (ULT)

All...who wished to (UST)

Here, **heart** refers to a person's will, their desire to do something. It is spoken of as causing a person to bring these gifts to Yahweh. This is a shortening and combining of the figure used in the [previous verse](#): **heart** and **impelled** are brought together. See how you translated these ideas in the previous verse. Alternate translation: "anyone whose will impelled him" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

all who had a willing heart

Alternate translation: "who were impelled of"

brooches and earrings and rings and ornaments, all of the things of gold (ULT)

necklaces, earrings, rings, gold ornaments—all sorts of things made from gold (UST)

These are different kinds of jewelry. The exact identity of each object is not known. The phrase **all of the things of gold** could either modify the whole list, meaning "all these items were made of gold," or could mean "many other gold things." If taken as a summary statement, in some languages it may be clearer to move it to the front of the list. Alternate translation: "all kinds of gold jewelry including necklaces, nose rings, signet rings, and gold ornaments" (See: [Litany](#))

And every man (ULT)

Then they (UST)

Although the term **men** is used, the word here is used in a generic sense that includes both men and women. Alternate translation: "And every person" (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [heart](#)
- [gold](#)
- [gold](#)
- [as a raised offering of](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [who wished to](#)
- [gold](#)
- [them](#)
- [lifted...up high to dedicate them to](#)
- [Yahweh](#)

ULT

²² And men along with women came, all impelled of [heart](#). They brought brooches and earrings and rings and ornaments, all of the things of [gold](#). And every man that raised {did} [as a raised offering of gold to Yahweh](#).

UST

²² All the men and women [who wished to](#) brought necklaces, earrings, rings, gold ornaments—all sorts of things made from [gold](#). Then they [lifted them up high to dedicate them to Yahweh](#).

Exodus 35:23

Everyone who had...brought them

See how you translated many of these words in [Exodus 25:4-5](#).

And every man with whom was found (ULT) Many people who had (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Also, the meaning of this phrase is simple possession. Alternate translation: "And every man who owned" or "And every man having" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

And every man (ULT) Many people (UST)

Here **man** includes both men and women. Alternate translation: "And every person" (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

And every man (ULT) Many people (UST)

The phrase **every man** is used here without the restriction, "who was willing," from previous verses. The exaggeration is used to emphasize what a large portion of the Israelites gave willingly. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression from your language that expresses a large number or a majority. Alternate translation: "And very many people" (See: [Hyperbole](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and purple](#)
- [ram](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [purple](#)
- [rams](#)

ULT

²³ And every man with whom was found blue [and purple](#) and worm of scarlet and fine linen and goats' hair and reddened [ram](#) skins and hides of sea-cows brought {them}.

UST

²³ Many people who had blue, [purple](#), or bright red {cloth}, or fine linen, or {cloth made from} goats' hair, or red [rams'](#) skins, or fine leather hides brought some of these things.

Exodus 35:24

and all with whom...was found (ULT)

Anyone owning (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Also, the meaning of this phrase is simple possession. Alternate translation: “and everyone who owned” or “and everyone having” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

All of the presenters {of (ULT)

Everyone who {desired to} offer (UST)

Here, **all** is limited by **presenters**, meaning only everyone who brought contributions. Avoid implying that every single Israelite did this (though very many did). Alternate translation: “All who decided to offer”

and all (ULT)

Anyone (UST)

The phrase **all** is used here without the restriction, “who were willing,” from previous verses. The exaggeration is used to emphasize what a large portion of the Israelites gave willingly. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent expression from your language that expresses a large number or a majority. Alternate translation: “and very many people” (See: [Hyperbole](#))

for all the work of the service (ULT)

for any part of the building work (UST)

Here, **service** refers to worshiping Yahweh, and the phrase **work of the service** refers to building the Dwelling as a place for worshiping Yahweh. Alternate translation: “for any of the building of a place for worship” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- silver
- and...bronze
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- silver or
- bronze
- to Yahweh

ULT

²⁴ All of the presenters {of} a contribution of **silver** and of **bronze** brought the contribution of **Yahweh**, and all with whom wood of acacias was found for all the work of the service brought {it}.

UST

²⁴ Everyone who {desired to} offer **silver or bronze** gifts brought them **to Yahweh**. Anyone owning wood from acacia trees brought it for any part of the building work.

Exodus 35:25

skilled of heart (ULT) who were skilled {at making cloth (UST)}

Here, **heart** is referring to something innately possessed by a person, that is, a trait of a person. The phrase essentially means “a talented craftswoman.” If this is unclear to your readers you may consider making it more explicit. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 28:3](#). Alternate translation: “who possessed the skill” (See: [Metonymy](#))

the blue and the purple the worm of scarlet (ULT) blue, purple, or red woolen yarn (UST)

This could mean: (1) “material that is dyed blue, purple, and scarlet,” probably wool yarn, or (2) “blue, purple and scarlet dye” to dye the linen. See how you translated a similar phrase in [Exodus 25:4](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- skilled of
- heart
- the purple

Translation Words - UST

- who were skilled {at making cloth
- who were skilled...at making cloth
- purple

ULT

²⁵ And every woman **skilled of heart** spun with her hands, and they brought the spun items, the blue and **the purple** the worm of scarlet and the fine linen.

UST

²⁵ All the women **who were skilled {at making cloth}** brought blue, **purple**, or red woolen yarn and fine linen thread that they had made by hand-spinning.

Exodus 35:26

whose hearts lifted them (ULT) who wanted to (UST)

Here, **heart** refers to a persons' will, their desire to do something. It is spoken of as causing a person to use her skills for Yahweh. This is the same as the first phrase in [verse 21](#). Alternate translation: "whose wills impelled them" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [hearts](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [wanted to](#)

ULT

²⁶ All the women with skill whose [hearts](#) lifted them spun goats' hair.

UST

²⁶ All the skilled women who [wanted to](#) made {thread} from goats' hair by spinning.

Exodus 35:27

The leaders brought...breastpiece

Beginning with **onyx**, this verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:7](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [precious stones of](#) (2)
- [for the ephod](#)
- [and for the breastpiece](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [other fine stones](#) (2)
- [to...sacred apron](#)
- [and sacred pouch](#)

ULT

27 And the leaders brought the onyx stones and [precious stones of setting for the ephod and for the breastpiece](#)

UST

27 The leaders brought onyx stones and [other fine stones](#) for fastening to {Aaron's} [sacred apron and sacred pouch](#),

Exodus 35:28

they brought spices...fragrant incense

Exodus 25:6 has almost identical words, arranged slightly differently.

Translation Words - ULT

- the oil
- and for...oil of
- the...anointing
- and for...incense of

Translation Words - UST

- oil
- oil
- anointing
- and...incense

ULT

²⁸ and spice and the oil for light and for the oil of anointing and for the incense of fragrance.

UST

²⁸ and spices and oil to use for the lamps, anointing oil, and sweet-smelling incense.

Exodus 35:29

whose heart was willing

The order of clauses in the ULT is reversed from the original because of required English sentence structure. In the original, **The sons of Israel brought a freewill offering to Yahweh** is at the end of the verse. Other languages may be able to retain the original order. (See: [Information Structure](#))

whose heart impelled them (ULT) who wanted (UST)

Here, **heart** refers to a persons' will, their desire to do something. It is spoken of as causing a person to bring these gifts to Yahweh. See how you translated this in [25:2](#) and [35:22](#). Alternate translation: "whose will impelled them" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

which Yahweh had commanded {them} to do by the hand of Moses (ULT) that he had commanded Moses tell them to do (UST)

Here, **by the hand of Moses** refers to Moses as a messenger for Yahweh's commands, not to Moses being the one who would build all these things. If this imagery of carrying a message would be misunderstood in your language, you may use another figure or translate the meaning. Alternate translation: "which Yahweh had told Moses to tell them to do" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [The sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [impelled](#)
- [a freewill offering](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [heart](#)
- [had commanded {them](#)
- [by the hand of](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the Israelite](#)
- [the Israelite](#)
- [who wanted](#)
- [freely offered them](#)
- [who wanted](#)
- [he](#)
- [to Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [tell them](#)

ULT

²⁹ [The sons of Israel](#) brought a [freewill offering to Yahweh](#), every man and woman whose [heart impelled](#) them to bring {something} for all of the work which [Yahweh had commanded {them}](#) to do [by the hand of Moses](#).

UST

²⁹ All [the Israelite](#) men and women [who wanted](#) to bring these things [freely offered them to Yahweh](#) for doing the work that [he had commanded Moses tell them](#) to do.

Exodus 35:30

Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, from the tribe of Judah

What Moses says in this verse is a quote from [Exodus 31:2](#)

on Bezalel...of Uri...Hur (ULT)

Bezalel...Uri...Hur (UST)

These are men's names. See [31:2](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- the sons of
- son
- son of
- Israel
- Yahweh
- has called
- by name
- from the tribe of
- Judah

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- the Israelites
- son of
- and grandson of
- the Israelites
- Yahweh
- has chosen
- a man named
- from the tribe descended from
- Judah

ULT

³⁰ And Moses said to the sons of Israel, "See, Yahweh has called by name on Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur, from the tribe of Judah.

UST

³⁰ Moses said to the Israelites, "Listen carefully. Yahweh has chosen a man named Bezalel, son of Uri and grandson of Hur, from the tribe descended from Judah.

Exodus 35:31

filled Bezalel...craftsmanship

This verse is a quote from [Exodus 31:3](#)

And he has filled him with the Spirit of God

(ULT)

Yahweh has caused his Spirit to teach him

(UST)

Yahweh speaks of giving Bezalel his spirit as if Bezalel were a container and God's spirit were a liquid. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: "And he has given his spirit to Bezalel" (See: [Metaphor](#))

with skill (ULT)

wisely (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **skill** in another way. Alternate translation: "so he can work skillfully" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

and with knowledge (ULT)

to know how to make (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **understanding** in another way. Alternate translation: "and so he can understand his work" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

and with knowledge (ULT)

to know how to make (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **knowledge** in another way. Alternate translation: "and so he knows his work well" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

and with all kinds of craftsmanship (ULT)

all kinds of fine goods (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for **craftsmanship**, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun in another way. Alternate translation: "and for making all kinds of crafts" or "and so that he can make all kinds of things" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

ULT

³¹ And he has filled him [with the Spirit of God](#), with skill [and with understanding](#) and with knowledge and with all kinds of craftsmanship

UST

³¹ Yahweh has caused [his Spirit](#) to teach him [to know how to make](#) all kinds of fine goods wisely [and intelligently](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [with the Spirit of](#)
- [God](#)
- [and with understanding](#)
- [and with knowledge](#)

Translation Words - UST

- his Spirit
- his Spirit
- to know how to make
- and intelligently

Exodus 35:32

to make artistic designs...bronze

This verse is identical to [Exodus 31:4](#), except for the first **and**.

Translation Words - ULT

- in gold
- and in silver
- and in bronze

Translation Words - UST

- in gold
- silver
- and bronze

ULT

³² and to design designs, to work in gold and in silver and in bronze

UST

³² He can engrave skillful designs in gold, silver, and bronze.

Exodus 35:33

also to cut and set stones...craftsmanship

This verse is identical to [Exodus 31:5](#) except for the final **of invention**.

Translation Words - ULT

- [precious stones](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [jewels](#)

ULT

³³ and in carving of [precious stones](#) for setting and in carving of wood, to do all kinds of craftsmanship of invention.

UST

³³ He can cut [jewels](#) and enclose them in tiny gold settings. He can carve things from wood and do other inventive, skilled work.

Exodus 35:34

**And he has put {it} in his heart to teach (ULT)
Yahweh has also made...able to teach {others
what they do (UST)**

Here, **put in his heart** is an idiom referring to ability and desire. These are spoken of as if they are something that could be placed in a heart. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: "And he gave to them the ability and desire to teach" (See: [Idiom](#))

**and Oholiab...Ahisamak (ULT)
and Oholiab...Ahisamak (UST)**

These are names of men. See how you translated these names in [Exodus 31:6](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [in his heart](#)
- [the son of](#)
- [from the tribe of](#)
- [Dan](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh has also made...able to teach...others what they do](#)
- [son of](#)
- [from the tribe of](#)
- [Dan](#)

ULT

³⁴ And he has put {it} [in his heart](#) to teach, he and Oholiab [the son of Ahisamak](#), [from the tribe of Dan](#).

UST

³⁴ [Yahweh has also made](#) Bezael and Oholiab [son of Ahisamak](#), [from the tribe of Dan](#), [able to teach {others what they do}](#).

Exodus 35:35

filled them with skill

This verse summarizes and pulls together many previously mentioned things. See [28:3 \(skill of heart\)](#), [25:4 \(for materials\)](#), [26:36 \(embroiderer\)](#), [28:32 \(weaver\)](#), [26:31 \(skillful workman\)](#), [31:3 \(craftsman\)](#), [28:6 \(designer of designs\)](#).

He has filled them {with} skill of heart (ULT) He has enabled them...skillfully (UST)

Here, **skill** to create beautiful objects is spoken of as if it were something that could fill up a person. If your readers would not understand what this image means in this context, you could use an equivalent metaphor from your culture. Alternatively, you could express the meaning in a non-figurative way. Alternate translation: “He has made them very skillful” (See: [Metaphor](#))

with} skill of heart (ULT) skillfully (UST)

Here, **of heart** refers to possessing something, in this case ability or skill. Some languages will use a different body part for this image. Alternate translation: “with ability” (See: [Synecdoche](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [heart](#)
- [the work of...of...of...of](#)
- [work](#)
- [and in the purple](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [skillfully](#)
- [crafts-work](#)
- [work](#)
- [purple](#)

ULT

³⁵ He has filled them {with} skill of [heart](#) to do all of [the work of](#) a craftsman and of a skillful workman and of an embroiderer in the blue [and in the purple](#) and in the worm of scarlet and in the fine linen and [of](#) a weaver. {They are} doers of all [work](#) and designers of design.

UST

³⁵ He has enabled them to [skillfully](#) do all kinds of [crafts-work](#)—those who create artistic things, those who embroider designs using blue, [purple](#), or red woolen yarn with linen cloth, and those who make the cloth. They are able to plan and do many kinds of artistic [work](#).

Exodus 36

Exodus 36 General Notes

Structure

\r \r * v. 1: finish Moses' instruction\r * v. 2-7: craftsmen collect materials from Moses, inform him the people should stop bringing things because they have too much already -v. 8-38: construction of the Dwelling, verse-by-verse quotations marked below\r * v. 8-18: quote [Exodus 26:1-11](#)\r * v. 19-34: quote [Exodus 26:14-29](#)\r * v. 35-36: quote [26:31-32](#)\r * v. 37-38: quote [26:36-37](#)

Translation issues

- The first verse of this chapter goes with the last chapter.
- Most of this chapter exactly quotes chapter 26 with a shift from instruction to past narrative form on the verbs and a few other minor changes; some are Hebrew word order that will be invisible here. Be sure to consult your previous work for consistency.
- Throughout verses 8-38 the word **he** is used. This is a generic noun referring to any of the team of skilled craftsmen. You could also change it to “they” if that would be understood better in your language. (See: [Generic Noun Phrases](#) and [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Exodus 36:1

General Information:

This verse is the end of a quotation from Moses that begin in [35:30](#). It should be connected as visually as possible to the previous verses, as the chapter break here is poorly placed.

Bezalel and Oholiab (ULT)

Bezalel and Oholiab (UST)

Bezalel and Oholiab are the names of men. See how you translated this in [Exodus 31:2](#) and [31:6](#) as well as in the end of [chapter 35](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

man (ULT)

the other...people (UST)

We know from [35:25](#) that women were included in the skilled workers, so **man** means every person. Alternate translation: "person" (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

skilled of heart (ULT)

skillful (UST)

Here, **of heart** refers to innately possessing something, in this case ability or skill. Some languages will use a different body part for this image. Alternate translation: "with innate ability" (See: [Synecdoche](#))

skill (ULT)

skillful (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **skill** in another way. See [35:31](#). Alternate translation: "the ability to work skillfully" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

and understanding (ULT)

and able (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for this idea, you can express the idea behind the abstract noun **understanding** in another way. See [35:31](#). Alternate translation: "and so he can understand his work" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

the work of the service of the Holy Place (ULT)

this work...the sacred place (UST)

Here, **service** refers to worshiping Yahweh, and the phrase **work of the service** refers to building the Dwelling (**Holy Place**) where the Israelites would worship Yahweh. See [35:24](#). Alternate translation: "the building of the Holy Place for worship" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- skilled of

ULT

¹ And Bezalel and Oholiab and every man **skilled of heart** to whom Yahweh has given **skill and understanding to know** {how} to do all of the work of the service of **the Holy Place** shall do according to all that **Yahweh has commanded**."

UST

¹ Bezalel and Oholiab will do this work along with all the other **skillful** people. **Yahweh** has made them **skillful and able to know how** to follow **his instructions** to build **the sacred place**."

- skill
- heart
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- and understanding
- to know
- the Holy Place
- has commanded

Translation Words - UST

- skillful
- skillful
- skillful
- Yahweh
- his
- and able
- to know how
- instructions
- the sacred place

Exodus 36:2

to Bezalel and to Oholiab and to every man skilled of heart in whose heart Yahweh had put skill (ULT)

Bezalel and Oholiab and all the other people that Yahweh had made skillful (UST)

See how you translated this in the [previous verse](#).

skill (ULT)

skillful (UST)

See how you translated **skill** in the [previous verse](#). (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

all whose heart lifted him (ULT)

who wished (UST)

See how you translated this in [35:21](#). (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [And...called](#)
- [skilled of](#)
- [skill](#)
- [heart](#)
- [in...heart](#)
- [heart](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [the work](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [So...summoned](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [skillful](#)
- [skillful](#)
- [skillful](#)
- [skillful](#)
- [wished](#)
- [some of the work](#)

ULT

² And [Moses called](#) to Bezalel and to Oholiab and to every man [skilled of heart](#) in whose [heart Yahweh](#) had put [skill](#), all whose [heart](#) lifted him to come near to [the work](#) to do it,

UST

² So [Moses summoned](#) Bezalel and Oholiab and all the other people that [Yahweh](#) had made [skillful](#) who [wished](#) to come do [some of the work](#).

Exodus 36:3

and they took (ULT)

They took (UST)

Alternate translation: "and the craftsmen took"

from before the face of (ULT)

from (UST)

Here, **before the face** means with Moses. Moses had received and kept the building materials. Alternate translation: "from the custody of" (See: [Metonymy](#))

in the morning in the morning (ULT)

every morning (UST)

This is an idiom meaning every morning or every day. Use a similar expression or translate the meaning. Alternate translation: "morning by morning" (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [the Holy Place](#)
- [a freewill offering](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [gladly](#)

ULT

³ and they took from before the face of [Moses](#) all of the contributions that [the sons of Israel](#) had brought for doing the work of the service of [the Holy Place](#). And they continually brought a [freewill offering](#) to him in the morning in the morning.

UST

³ They took all the gifts for building [the sacred tent](#) from [Moses](#) that [the Israelites](#) had brought to him. But the Israelites continued [gladly](#) bringing more gifts every morning.

Exodus 36:4

the skilled (ULT) skillful craftsman (UST)

Here the adjective **skilled** is used as a noun in order to describe the group of craftsmen. Your language may use adjectives in the same way. If not, you could translate this with a noun phrase. Alternate translation: “the skilled workers” (See: [Nominal Adjectives](#))

every single man (ULT) each and every (UST)

Here, **every single man** translates an idiom that cannot be rendered literally and sensibly in English. The original is “a man a man.” If your language would use repetition to emphasize that each and every man came to see Moses, you could follow the original; otherwise use a phrase or structure that emphasizes that they all came. Alternate translation: “every man without exception” (See: [Idiom](#))

every single man (ULT) each and every (UST)

As previously, noted, there were some women who contributed (particularly in the cloth crafts) so this use of **man** may include women. Alternate translation: “every single worker” (See: [When Masculine Words Include Women](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the skilled](#)
- [the Holy Place](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [skillful craftsman](#)
- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

⁴ So all [the skilled](#) doing all the work of [the Holy Place](#) came, every single man from the work that they were doing,

UST

⁴ As a result, each and every [skillful craftsman](#) who was working to make [the sacred tent](#) left their work and came to Moses.

Exodus 36:5

and they said to Moses, saying, “The people {are} bringing much more than enough for the service of the work that Yahweh has commanded {us} to do (ULT)

The craftsmen told him, “The Israelites are bringing many times more than we need to build as Yahweh has commanded us (UST)

If it would be more natural in your language, you could express this as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: “The craftsmen told Moses that the people were bringing much more than enough for doing the work that Yahweh has commanded them to do” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [The people](#)
- [much](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [has commanded](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [him](#)
- [The Israelites](#)
- [many times](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [has commanded](#)

ULT

⁵ and they said to [Moses](#), saying, “[The people](#) {are} bringing [much](#) more than enough for the service of the work that [Yahweh has commanded](#) {us} to do.”

UST

⁵ The craftsmen told [him](#), “[The Israelites](#) are bringing [many times](#) more than we need to build as [Yahweh has commanded](#) us!”

Exodus 36:6

**A man and a woman shall not make any more work for the contribution of the (ULT)
Everyone should stop making and bringing material gifts for the sacred tent (UST)**

If it would be more natural in your language, you could express this as an indirect quotation. Alternate translation: “that no one should bring any more contributions for the work of the Holy Place” (See: [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#))

**and they caused a sound to pass through (ULT)
to proclaim a message (UST)**

Here, **sound** refers to the message. This means they spread Moses’ message orally. Alternate translation: “everyone to share this message” (See: [Metonymy](#))

**A man and a woman shall not make (ULT)
Everyone should stop making and bringing (UST)**

Here, **man and woman** is intended to mean everyone, or in this case because of the negation, no one. If it would be helpful in your language, you could use an equivalent expression or plain language. Alternate translation: “No one shall make” (See: [Generic Noun Phrases](#))

**work (ULT)
material (UST)**

Here, **work** means the sorts of crafted items listed in the previous chapter.

**from bringing (ULT)
bringing gifts (UST)**

In some languages you may need to provide an object for this sentence. Alternate translation: “from bringing contributions” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [And...commanded](#)
- [the](#)
- [the people](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [So...told them](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [for the sacred tent](#)

ULT

⁶ And [Moses commanded](#), and they caused a sound to pass through in the camp, saying, “A man and a woman shall not make any more work for the contribution of [the Holy Place](#).” And [the people](#) were restrained from bringing.

UST

⁶ So [Moses told them](#) to proclaim a message throughout the camp, “Everyone should stop making and bringing material gifts [for the sacred tent!](#)” So [the people](#) stopped bringing gifts.

- the people

Exodus 36:7

And the work (ULT) materials (UST)

Here, **work** means the sorts of crafted items listed in the previous chapter.

ULT

⁷ And the work was sufficient for doing all their work, and there was excess.

UST

⁷ They had more than enough materials for all the work.

Exodus 36:8

General Information:

Except for tense and the addition of **every skilled of heart among the doers of the work**, this verse is identical to [Exodus 26:1](#).

every skilled of heart (ULT) All the most skilled men (UST)

See how you translated this in [35:21](#). (See: [Synecdoche](#))

he made (ULT) A skilled craftsman took...and embroidered (UST)

Throughout verses 8-38 the word **he** used. This is a generic noun referring to any of the team of skilled craftsmen. If this would be misunderstood in your language, use a more natural phrase. Alternate translation: “they made” or “a craftsman made” (See: [Generic Noun Phrases](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- skilled of
- heart
- the Dwelling
- curtains
- and purple
- cherubim

Translation Words - UST

- the most skilled men
- the most skilled men
- the sacred tent
- long strips of...these strips
- purple
- with designs that represent the winged creatures that are above the chest

ULT

⁸ And every **skilled of heart** among the doers of the work made **the Dwelling** with ten **curtains**: twisted fine linen and blue **and purple** and worm of scarlet; **cherubim**—the work of a skilled craftsman he made them.

UST

⁸ All **the most skilled men** among the workmen made **the sacred tent**, using ten **long strips of** finely twisted linen. A skilled craftsman took blue, **purple**, and red thread, and embroidered **these strips with designs that represent the winged creatures that are above the chest**.

Exodus 36:9

General Information:

This verse is identical to [Exodus 26:2](#). Tense is implied.

Translation Words - ULT

- curtain
- curtain
- the curtains

Translation Words - UST

- strip was
- strip was
- They

ULT

⁹ The length of each curtain {was} 28 cubits and the width of each curtain {was} four cubits. All of the curtains {were} one size.

UST

⁹ Each strip was 14.5 meters long and two meters wide. They were all the same size.

Exodus 36:10

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:3](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the curtains](#)
- [the curtains](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [strips](#)
- [strips](#)

ULT

¹⁰ And five of [the curtains](#) were joined each to another, and five of [the curtains](#) were joined each to another.

UST

¹⁰ He sewed five [strips](#) together {as one set}, and sewed the other five [strips](#) together {as another set}.

Exodus 36:11

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:4](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the...curtain](#)
- [the...curtain](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the strip](#)
- [the strip](#)

ULT

11 And he made loops of blue on the edge of the first [curtain](#) from the edge in the set. And he did thus along the edge of the end [curtain](#) in the second set.

UST

11 For each set, he made loops of blue cloth and fastened them along the outer edge of [the strip](#), at the end of each set.

Exodus 36:12

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:5](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [on the...curtain](#)
- [the curtain](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [on the edge of the...set](#)
- [the...set](#)

ULT

¹² He made 50 loops [on the](#) first [curtain](#), and he made 50 loops on the end of [the curtain](#) which is in the second set. The loops were opposite one to one.

UST

¹² He put 50 loops [on the edge of the](#) first [set](#), and 50 loops at the edge of the second [set](#) so that the loops were opposite each other.

Exodus 36:13

General Information

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:6](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- the curtains
- the Dwelling

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- both of the sets
- the sacred tent

ULT

¹³ And he made 50 clasps of gold and joined the curtains one to one with the clasps, and the Dwelling was one.

UST

¹³ He made 50 gold fasteners and fastened both of the sets together with them to make the sacred tent one unit.

Exodus 36:14

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:7](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- curtains of
- He...curtains
- the Dwelling

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred tent
- from...pieces of cloth
- from...pieces of cloth

ULT

14 And he made curtains of goats' hair for a tent over the Dwelling. He made 11 of these curtains.

UST

14 He made a cover for the sacred tent from 11 pieces of cloth made from goats' hair.

Exodus 36:15

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:8](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [curtain](#)
- [curtain \(2\)](#)
- [The...curtains](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [pieces of cloth](#)
- [pieces of cloth \(2\)](#)
- [pieces of cloth](#)

ULT

¹⁵ The length of each [curtain](#) {was} 30 cubits, and the width of each [curtain](#) {was} four cubits. The 11 [curtains](#) {were} the same size.

UST

¹⁵ Each of the 11 [pieces of cloth](#) was the same dimensions: 15 meters long and two meters wide.

Exodus 36:16

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to the first sentence of [Exodus 26:9](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [curtains](#)
- [curtains](#) (2)

Translation Words - UST

- [pieces of cloth](#)
- [pieces of cloth](#) (2)

ULT

16 And he joined five [curtains](#) to each other and six [curtains](#) to each other.

UST

16 He sewed five of these [pieces of cloth](#) together {to make one set}, and he sewed the other six [pieces of cloth](#) together {to make another set}.

Exodus 36:17

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:10](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the...curtain](#)
- [the curtain](#) (2)

Translation Words - UST

- [a set](#)
- [the other set](#) (2)

ULT

¹⁷ And he made 50 loops on the edge of the end [curtain](#) in the joined set, and he made 50 loops on the edge of [the curtain](#) in the second joined set.

UST

¹⁷ He made {100 loops of blue cloth,} and fastened 50 of them to the outer edge of [a set](#) and fastened 50 to the outer edge of [the other set](#).

Exodus 36:18

General Information:

This verse is similar to [Exodus 26:11](#). The difference is the absence of the middle clause from 26:11.

Translation Words - ULT

- [bronze](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [bronze](#)

ULT

18 And he made 50 clasps of [bronze](#) to join the tent to be one.

UST

18 He made 50 [bronze](#) clasps for connecting the tent into one big piece.

Exodus 36:19

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:14](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [rams](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [rams](#)

ULT

¹⁹ And he made a covering for the tent of reddened hides of [rams](#) and a covering of hides of sea-cows above that.

UST

¹⁹ He made another cover from red [rams'](#) skins to go over the tent, and a top cover from fine leather hides.

Exodus 36:20

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:15](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [for the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [for the sacred tent](#)

ULT

²⁰ And he made upright frames [for the Dwelling](#) from wood of acacias.

UST

²⁰ He made a standing framework from acacia wood [for the sacred tent](#).

Exodus 36:21

General Information:

This verse is identical to [Exodus 26:16](#).

ULT

²¹ The length of a frame {was} ten cubits, and the width of one frame {was} a cubit and a half of a cubit.

UST

²¹ Each frame was five meters long and three-quarters of a meter wide.

Exodus 36:22

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:17](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [for the tabernacle](#)

ULT

²² {There were} two tenons in each frame for joining one to one. Thus he made all of the frames of [the Dwelling](#).

UST

²² He made two pegs {at the bottom of} each frame to fasten them together. He made each frame [for the tabernacle](#) this way.

Exodus 36:23

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:18](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [for the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [of the sacred tent](#)

ULT

²³ And he made the frames [for the Dwelling](#): 20 frames for the south side.

UST

²³ He made 20 frames for the south side [of the sacred tent](#).

Exodus 36:24

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:19](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- silver

Translation Words - UST

- silver

ULT

²⁴ And he made 40 bases of silver under the 20 frames: two bases under one frame for its two tenons, and two bases under one frame for its two tenons.

UST

²⁴ He made 40 silver bases to go underneath the 20 frames. He put two bases under each frame and fit their two pegs into the bases.

Exodus 36:25

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:20](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

²⁵ And for the second side of [the Dwelling](#), on the north side, he made 20 frames

UST

²⁵ For the other side—{that is,} the north side—of [the sacred tent](#) he made 20 frames

Exodus 36:26

General Information:

This verse is identical to [Exodus 26:21](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- silver

Translation Words - UST

- silver

ULT

²⁶ and their 40 silver bases: two bases under one frame, and two bases under one frame.

UST

²⁶ and 40 silver bases for them. {They put} two bases under each frame.

Exodus 36:27

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:22](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

²⁷ And he made six frames for the back side of [the Dwelling](#), toward the west.

UST

²⁷ For the rear of [the sacred tent](#), on the west side, he made six frames.

Exodus 36:28

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:23](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

²⁸ And he made two frames for the back corners of [the Dwelling](#).

UST

²⁸ They made two frames for the rear corners of [the sacred tent](#).

Exodus 36:29

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 26:24](#).

ULT

²⁹ And they were a pair at the bottom, and they were completely together at the top to one ring. Thus he did for both as the two corners.

UST

²⁹ He matched them to each other at the bottom and top. He secured the tops together with a ring. He did this for both, making them the corner pieces.

Exodus 36:30

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 26:25](#).

two bases, two bases under one frame (ULT) two bases under each frame (UST)

The list formula from [26:25](#) is strangely shortened here but has the same meaning. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [silver](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [silver](#)

ULT

³⁰ And there were eight frames and their [silver](#) bases, sixteen bases: two bases, two bases under one frame.

UST

³⁰ He made eight frames and 16 [silver](#) bases, two bases under each frame.

Exodus 36:31

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:26](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

³¹ And he made crossbars of wood of acacias—five for the frames of the one side of [the Dwelling](#),

UST

³¹ He made crossbars from acacia wood. He made five crossbars for the frames on the {north} side of [the sacred tent](#),

Exodus 36:32

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:27](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)
- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)
- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

³² and five crossbars for the frames of the second side of [the Dwelling](#), and five crossbars for the frames for the back of [the Dwelling](#) to the west.

UST

³² five crossbars for the frames on the {south} side of [the sacred tent](#), and five crossbars for the frames at the rear of [the sacred tent](#), on the west.

Exodus 36:33

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 26:28](#).

ULT

³³ And he made the middle crossbar in the center of the frames to pass through from end to end.

UST

³³ He made the center crossbar, right in the middle of the frames, reach all the way from edge to edge.

Exodus 36:34

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:29](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- with gold
- gold
- with gold

Translation Words - UST

- with gold
- from gold
- with gold

ULT

³⁴ And he covered the frames [with gold](#). And he made their rings of [gold](#), the holders for the crossbars. And he covered the bars [with gold](#).

UST

³⁴ He covered the frames and crossbars [with gold](#). He made the rings for fastening the crossbars to the frames [from gold](#).

Exodus 36:35

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:31](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- a curtain of
- and purple
- cherubim

Translation Words - UST

- a curtain from
- purple
- making designs to represent the winged creatures that are above the sacred chest

ULT

³⁵ And he made a curtain of blue and purple and worm of scarlet and of twisted fine linen. He made cherubim, the work of a skillful workman.

UST

³⁵ He made a curtain from fine linen. A skilled craftsman embroidered it with blue, purple, and red yarn, making designs to represent the winged creatures that are above the sacred chest.

Exodus 36:36

General Information:

Aside from some verbal differences, this verse is very similar to [Exodus 26:32](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- pillars of
- {with} gold
- with gold
- silver

Translation Words - UST

- posts
- with gold
- with gold
- silver

ULT

³⁶ And he made for it four pillars of acacia wood, and he covered them {with} gold and their hooks with gold. And he cast for them four bases of silver.

UST

³⁶ He made four posts from acacia wood for the curtain. He covered them and their hooks with gold. He formed four silver bases for the posts.

Exodus 36:37

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 26:36](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- a curtain
- and purple

Translation Words - UST

- a curtain...it
- purple

ULT

³⁷ And he made a curtain for the entrance of the tent: of blue and purple and worm of scarlet and of twisted fine linen, the work of an embroiderer,

UST

³⁷ He made a curtain as the tent entrance. A skilled weaver made it from fine linen with blue, purple, and red yarn.

Exodus 36:38

General Information:

See how you translated many of these words in [Exodus 26:37](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- its...pillars
- with} gold
- were} bronze

Translation Words - UST

- posts
- with gold
- bronze

ULT

³⁸ and its five pillars and their hooks. And he covered their tops and their rings {with} gold. And their five bases {were} bronze.

UST

³⁸ {He also made} five posts with hooks on them. He covered the tops of the posts and their connectors with gold and {made} a bronze base for each of those posts.

Exodus 37

Exodus 37 General Notes

Structure

\r - v. 1-9 Making the ark, see [Exodus 25:10-20](#)\r - v. 10-16 Making the table, see [Exodus 25:23-29](#)\r - v. 17-24 Making the lampstand, see [Exodus 25:31-39](#)\r - v. 25-28 Making the altar for incense, see [Exodus 30:1-5](#)\r - v. 29 Making the oil and incense, see [Exodus 30:22-38](#)

Potential translation issues

- This chapter continues the record of the construction of the Dwelling and the items for it in almost exact repetition of Yahweh's instructions. Be sure to consult your previous work for consistency.
- Throughout the chapter the word **he** is used. This is a generic noun referring to any of the team of skilled craftsmen. You could also change it to "they" if that would be understood better in your language. (See: [Generic Noun Phrases](#) and [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Exodus 37:1

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:10](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the box of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred chest from...it](#)

ULT

¹ And Bezalel made [the box of](#) wood of acacias—its length {was} two cubits and a half, and its width {was} one cubit and a half, and its height {was} one cubit and a half.

UST

¹ Then Bezalel made [the sacred chest from](#) acacia wood. He made [it](#) 125 centimeters long, 75 centimeters wide, and 75 centimeters high.

Exodus 37:2

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 25:11](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- with...gold
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- pure
- with...gold
- gold

ULT

² And he overlaid it {with} pure gold, inside and outside, and for it he made a border of gold around {it}.

UST

² He covered the chest with pure gold inside and outside and made a gold molding for all around it.

Exodus 37:3

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:12](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- gold

Translation Words - UST

- gold

ULT

³ And he cast four rings of gold for it on its four feet: two rings on its one side and two rings on its second side.

UST

³ He made four rings from gold and fastened them to the four legs of the chest. He put two of the rings on each side of the chest.

Exodus 37:4

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:13](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- with} gold

Translation Words - UST

- with gold

ULT

⁴ And he made poles of wood of acacias and overlaid them {with} gold.

UST

⁴ He made two poles from acacia wood, and covered them with gold.

Exodus 37:5

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:14](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the box](#)
- [the box](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the chest](#)
- [it](#)

ULT

⁵ And he put the poles into the rings on the sides of [the box](#), to carry [the box](#).

UST

⁵ He put the poles into the rings on the sides of [the chest](#) so that {the Levites} could carry [it](#).

Exodus 37:6

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:17](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- an atonement lid of
- pure
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- a lid for the chest
- pure
- from...gold

ULT

⁶ And he made an atonement lid of pure gold. Its length {was} two cubits and a half, and its width {was} a cubit and a half.

UST

⁶ He made a lid for the chest from pure gold. It was 125 centimeters long and 75 centimeters wide.

Exodus 37:7

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:18](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- cherubim
- the atonement lid

Translation Words - UST

- a large lump of} gold
- into the form of...creatures that have wings
- the lid

ULT

⁷ And he made two [gold cherubim](#); he made them of hammered work from the two ends of [the atonement lid](#).

UST

⁷ He hammered {a large lump of} gold into the form of two creatures that have wings for the two ends of the lid.

Exodus 37:8

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:19](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- cherub
- and...cherub
- the cherubim
- the atonement lid

Translation Words - UST

- one
- and the other
- the winged creatures
- of the sacred chest's lid

ULT

⁸ One cherub {was} from this end and one cherub from this end. He made the cherubim from the atonement lid from its two ends.

UST

⁸ He made the winged creatures {from the gold} from each end of the sacred chest's lid, one at one end and the other at the other end.

Exodus 37:9

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:20](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the cherubim
- the cherubim
- the atonement lid
- the atonement lid (2)
- his brother

Translation Words - UST

- The creature's
- them
- the lid
- the chest's lid (2)
- each other

ULT

⁹ And the cherubim were spreading out their wings upward, covering over the atonement lid with their wings, and their faces {were} each toward his brother. The faces of the cherubim were toward the atonement lid.

UST

⁹ The creature's wings spread out and reached up to cover the lid. They faced each other, facing the chest's lid that was between them.

Exodus 37:10

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:23](#).

ULT

¹⁰ And he made the table from wood of acacias. Its length {was} two cubits, and its width {was} a cubit, and its height {was} a cubit and a half.

UST

¹⁰ He made a table from acacia wood. It was one meter long, one-half of a meter wide, and three-quarters of a meter high.

Exodus 37:11

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:24](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- with...gold
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- pure
- with...gold
- a gold

ULT

11 And he overlaid it {with} pure gold and made for it a border of gold around {it}.

UST

11 He covered the table with pure gold and put a gold molding all around it.

Exodus 37:12

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:25](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- gold

Translation Words - UST

- gold

ULT

¹² And he made a rim for it, a handbreadth all around, and he made a border of gold around its rim.

UST

¹² He made a rim all around it, eight centimeters wide, and made a gold molding around the rim.

Exodus 37:13

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:26](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- gold

Translation Words - UST

- gold

ULT

¹³ And he cast four rings of gold for it and put the rings on the four corners, where its four legs are.

UST

¹³ He molded four rings from gold. He fastened them to the four corners of the table. Each ring was close to each table leg

Exodus 37:14

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:27](#).

ULT

¹⁴ The rings were close to the rim to house the poles to carry the table.

UST

¹⁴ near the rim. They held poles for carrying the table.

Exodus 37:15

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 25:28](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- with} gold

Translation Words - UST

- with gold

ULT

¹⁵ And he made the poles {out of} wood of acacias and covered them {with} gold to carry the table.

UST

¹⁵ He made two poles from acacia wood and covered them with gold. They were for carrying the table.

Exodus 37:16

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 25:29](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- from...gold

Translation Words - UST

- from pure
- gold

ULT

16 And he made the objects that {would be} on the table—its plates, and its pans, and its bowls, and its pitchers with which it will be poured out—{from} pure gold.

UST

16 He made all the utensils for the table from pure gold—dishes, cups, bowls, and jars {for the priests to use} to pour out {wine to offer to Yahweh}.

Exodus 37:17

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:31](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the lampstand of
- The lampstand
- pure
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- the lampstand
- its...its
- pure
- from...gold

ULT

¹⁷ And he made the lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand—its base and its shaft—were made of hammered work. Its cups, its buds, and its blossoms were from it.

UST

¹⁷ He made the lampstand from pure gold. He hammered {one large lump of gold} to make its base and its shaft. He made the cups, with the flower buds and petals {that decorate them}, from that same lump.

Exodus 37:18

General Information:

This verse is identical to [Exodus 25:32](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the lampstand](#)
- [the lampstand](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the lampstand](#)
- [the lampstand](#)

ULT

18 And six branches were going out from its sides, three branches of [the lampstand](#) from the one side and three branches of [the lampstand](#) from the second side.

UST

18 There were six branches on [the lampstand](#), three on each side of the shaft.

Exodus 37:19

General Information:

This verse is identical to [Exodus 25:33](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the lampstand](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the lampstand](#)

ULT

¹⁹ Three cups, shaped like almond blossoms, {were} on the one branch, a bulb and a blossom, and three cups, shaped like almond blossoms, were on the one branch, a bulb and a blossom; thus for the six branches going out from [the lampstand](#).

UST

¹⁹ Each branch had three gold cups that looked like almond flowers on it. The flowers had buds and petals. It was the same for all six branches of [the lampstand](#).

Exodus 37:20

General Information:

This verse is identical to [Exodus 25:34](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [And on the lampstand](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [On {the shaft of} the lampstand](#)

ULT

²⁰ [And on the lampstand](#) {there were} four cups shaped like almond blossoms {with} its bulbs and its blossoms,

UST

²⁰ [On {the shaft of} the lampstand](#) there were four cups that also looked like almond blossoms, each one with flower buds and petals.

Exodus 37:21

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:35](#).

ULT

²¹ And a bulb {was} under two of the branches from it, and a bulb {was} under two of the branches from it, and a bulb {was} under two of the branches from it—for all six branches extending out from it.

UST

²¹ He made one flower bud beneath every two branches. He attached it to each pair of branches {as if they were growing} from it. He made all six lampstand branches like this.

Exodus 37:22

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:36](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- pure
- gold

ULT

²² Their bulbs and their branches from it were all one piece of hammered work of pure gold.

UST

²² He hammered all these buds and branches{, along with the shaft,} from one {large lump} of pure gold.

Exodus 37:23

General Information:

This verse is almost identical with [Exodus 25:37-38](#), excluding the purpose clause in v. 37 (“and it will hold up its lamps, and it will make light on the side of its face”).

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- pure
- gold

ULT

²³ And he made its seven lamps and its tongs and its trays of pure gold.

UST

²³ He made from pure gold: seven lamps, tongs {to remove the burned wicks}, and trays {in which to put the burned wicks}.

Exodus 37:24

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 25:39](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- gold

Translation Words - UST

- pure
- gold

ULT

²⁴ He made it and all its items from a talent of pure gold.

UST

²⁴ He used 33 kilograms of pure gold to make the lampstand, the tongs, and the trays.

Exodus 37:25

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 30:1-2](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the altar of](#)
- [incense of](#)
- [Its horns](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the altar for burning](#)
- [incense](#)
- [projections that looked like} horns on the same block of wood as the altar](#)

ULT

²⁵ And he made [the altar of incense of](#) wood of acacias. Its length {was} one cubit, and its width one cubit. It {was} square, and its height {was} two cubits. [Its horns](#) were part of it.

UST

²⁵ He made [the altar for burning incense](#) from acacia wood. It was square, one-half meter on each side and one meter high. There were {[projections that looked like} horns on the same block of wood as the altar.](#)

Exodus 37:26

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 30:3](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- with...gold
- gold
- its horns

Translation Words - UST

- the projections
- pure
- with...gold
- a gold

ULT

²⁶ And he overlaid it {with} pure gold—its top and all around its sides and its horns—and he made for it a border of gold around {it}.

UST

²⁶ He covered the top and the four sides, including the projections, with pure gold. He put a gold molding all around it.

Exodus 37:27

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 30:4](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- gold

Translation Words - UST

- gold

ULT

²⁷ And he made two rings of gold for it under its border on its two sides, on its two sides; for housings for the poles for carrying it with them.

UST

²⁷ He made two gold rings and attached them to the altar below the molding, one on each side of the altar. These rings were to hold the poles for carrying the altar.

Exodus 37:28

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 30:5](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- with} gold

Translation Words - UST

- with gold

ULT

²⁸ And he made the poles of wood of acacias, and he overlaid them {with} gold.

UST

²⁸ He made those two poles from acacia wood and covered them with gold.

Exodus 37:29

General Information:

For the **oil**, see [Exodus 30:25](#), and for the **incense** see [25:6](#) and [30:35](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the oil of...the
- holiness
- pure
- incense of

Translation Words - UST

- sacred
- the...oil
- pure
- the...incense

ULT

²⁹ And he made the oil of anointment of holiness and the pure incense of fragrance, the work of an ointment maker.

UST

²⁹ He made the sacred oil for anointing and the pure sweet-smelling incense. A perfumer mixed the incense together.

Exodus 38

Exodus 38 General Notes

- This chapter continues the record of the construction of the Dwelling and the items for it in almost exact repetition of Yahweh's instructions. Be sure to consult your previous work for consistency. Verses 1-20 of this chapter follow [Exodus 27:1-19](#) almost verse for verse.
- Throughout the chapter the word **he** is used. This is a generic noun referring to any of the team of skilled craftsmen. You could also change it to "they" if that would be understood better in your language. (See: [Generic Noun Phrases](#) and [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Exodus 38:1

General Information

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 27:1](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the altar of](#)
- [the burnt offering of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the altar for burning sacrifices](#)
- [the altar for burning sacrifices](#)

ULT

¹ And he made [the altar of the burnt offering of](#) wood of acacias. Its length {was} five cubits and its breadth {was} five cubits—a square—and its height {was} three cubits.

UST

¹ Bezalel made [the altar for burning sacrifices](#) from acacia wood. It was square, two and a half meters long on each side, and one and a half meters tall.

Exodus 38:2

General Information

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 27:2](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- its horns
- its horns
- with} bronze

Translation Words - UST

- a {projection that looks like a} horn
- from the same block of wood as the altar
- with bronze

ULT

² And he made its horns on its four corners; its horns were part of it. And he overlaid it {with} bronze.

UST

² He made a {projection that looks like a} horn on each of the top corners from the same block of wood as the altar. He covered the whole altar with bronze.

Exodus 38:3

General Information

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 27:3](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the altar](#)
- [of} bronze](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the altar](#)
- [from bronze](#)

ULT

³ And he made all of the equipment of [the altar](#): the pots and the shovels and the basins, the meat forks and the firepans. He made all of its equipment [{of} bronze](#).

UST

³ He made all the implements for [the altar](#): the pans, shovels, basins, forks for working with cooking meat, and buckets for carrying hot coals. He made all of these implements [from bronze](#).

Exodus 38:4

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 27:4](#) and [Exodus 27:5](#). One part of 27:4 is rearranged into 38:5.

Translation Words - ULT

- [for the altar](#)
- [bronze](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a bronze lattice](#)
- [the rim {that was around the altar}](#)

ULT

⁴ And he made a grate [for the altar](#), a work of a network of [bronze](#) under its ledge, from below to its middle.

UST

⁴ He made [a bronze lattice](#) grating {to hold the wood and burning coals}. He put the grating under [the rim {that was around the altar}](#). He made it so that it was inside the altar, halfway down.

Exodus 38:5

General Information:

This verse is very similar to the second half of [Exodus 27:4](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [bronze](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [bronze](#)

ULT

⁵ And he cast four rings on the four ends for the grate of [bronze](#), as holders for the poles.

UST

⁵ He molded four [bronze](#) rings in which to put the poles for the lattice and fastened them to its four corners.

Exodus 38:6

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 27:6](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [with](#)} bronze

Translation Words - UST

- [with](#) bronze

ULT

⁶ And he made the poles of wood of acacias, and overlaid them {[with](#)} [bronze](#).

UST

⁶ He made the poles from acacia wood and covered them [with bronze](#).

Exodus 38:7

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 27:7](#) and the first part of [27:8](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the altar](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the altar](#)

ULT

⁷ And he put the poles into the rings on the sides of [the altar](#), to carry it with them. He made it hollow, of planks.

UST

⁷ He put the poles for carrying the altar through the rings on each side of [the altar](#). He made the altar from boards; it was hollow in the middle.

Exodus 38:8

And he made a basin of bronze and its base of bronze (ULT)

He made the bronze washbasin and the bronze base for it (UST)

This portion is almost identical to [Exodus 30:18](#).

with the mirrors of (ULT)

The bronze was from the mirrors that belonged to (UST)

The **bronze** came from the **mirrors**. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express that explicitly. Alternate translation: "from the bronze mirrors" (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- bronze
- bronze
- the serving {women}
- served
- the tent of meeting

Translation Words - UST

- bronze
- the bronze
- the women
- worked
- the sacred tent

ULT

⁸ And he made a basin of **bronze** and its base of **bronze** with the mirrors of **the serving {women}** who **served** at the entrance of **the tent of meeting**.

UST

⁸ He made the **bronze** washbasin and **the bronze** base for it. The bronze was from the mirrors that belonged to **the women** who **worked** at the entrance of **the sacred tent**.

Exodus 38:9

General Information:

This verse is similar to [Exodus 27:9](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the courtyard](#)
- [the courtyard](#)
- [the curtains of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [a courtyard...around the sacred tent](#)
- [a...curtain](#)
- [a...curtain](#)

ULT

⁹ And he made [the courtyard](#). For the south side, [the curtains of the courtyard](#) {were} 100 cubits of fine twisted linen,

UST

⁹ He made [a courtyard](#) {[around the sacred tent](#)}. On the south side, he hung a fine linen [curtain](#) 50 meters long

Exodus 38:10

General Information

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 27:10](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- with} their...pillars
- the pillars
- bronze
- silver

Translation Words - UST

- bronze...bronze
- from...posts
- on them
- silver

ULT

¹⁰ {with} their 20 pillars and their 20 bronze bases, the hooks of the pillars and their rings of silver.

UST

¹⁰ from 20 {bronze} posts that had 20 bronze bases for the posts and hooks on them and silver connectors.

Exodus 38:11

General Information

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 27:11](#).

100 cubits (ULT) he hung 50 meters of curtains (UST)

Here, “the curtains of the courtyard” and “long” are both omitted. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. Alternate translation: “the curtains of the courtyard were 100 cubits long” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [with} their...pillars](#)
- [the pillars](#)
- [bronze](#)
- [silver](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [from...posts](#)
- [hooks, and](#)
- [bronze](#)
- [silver](#)

ULT

11 And for the north side, 100 cubits {with} their 20 pillars and their 20 bases of bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their rings {were} of silver.

UST

11 For the north side {of the courtyard}, he hung 50 meters of curtains from 20 posts, each with their bronze bases, hooks, and silver connectors.

Exodus 38:12

General Information

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 27:12](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the curtains](#)
- [with their...pillars](#)
- [the pillars](#)
- [silver](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [of curtains](#)
- [from...posts](#)
- [hooks](#)
- [silver](#)

ULT

¹² And [the curtains](#) for the side of the west {were} 50 cubits, [with their](#) ten [pillars](#) and their ten bases. The hooks of [the pillars](#) and rings {were} of [silver](#).

UST

¹² For the west side {of the courtyard}, he hung 25 meters [of curtains](#) from ten [posts](#), each with their bases, [hooks](#), and [silver](#) connectors.

Exodus 38:13

General Information

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 27:13](#).

ULT

¹³ And for the east side 50 cubits.

UST

¹³ The east side also was 25 meters wide.

Exodus 38:14

General Information

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 27:14](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- The curtains
- with} their...pillars

Translation Words - UST

- He made} a curtain
- with...posts

ULT

¹⁴ The curtains to the side {were} fifteen cubits {with} their three pillars and their three bases.

UST

¹⁴ {He made} a curtain seven and a half meters long for one side {of the entrance}, with three posts and bases.

Exodus 38:15

General Information

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 27:15](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- to the gate of
- the courtyard
- the curtains
- with} their...pillars

Translation Words - UST

- entrance
- to the courtyard
- he made} a curtain
- also with...posts

ULT

¹⁵ And for the second side from this, and from this to the gate of the courtyard, the curtains {were} fifteen cubits {with} their three pillars and their three bases.

UST

¹⁵ On the other side, opposite from the entrance to the courtyard, {he made} a curtain seven and a half meters long, also with three posts and bases.

Exodus 38:16

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- curtains of
- the courtyard

Translation Words - UST

- curtains
- the courtyard

ULT

¹⁶ All of the curtains of the courtyard all around {were} fine twisted linen.

UST

¹⁶ There were fine linen curtains all around the courtyard.

Exodus 38:17

General Information

See how you translated many of these words in [Exodus 27:17](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- for the pillars
- the pillars
- the pillars of
- were} bronze
- were} silver
- was...silver
- silver...with (2)
- the courtyard

Translation Words - UST

- All the posts' bases
- The pillars
- the courtyard's pillars
- were bronze
- were silver
- with silver
- silver (2)
- the courtyard's pillars

ULT

17 And the bases for the pillars {were} bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their rings {were} silver, and the plating of their tops {was} silver. And all of the pillars of the courtyard {were} filleted {with} silver.

UST

17 All the posts' bases were bronze. They covered the tops with silver. The pillars' hooks and loops were silver. The ends of the courtyard's pillars had a rounded silver finish.

Exodus 38:18

General Information

See how you translated many of these words in [Exodus 27:16 and 18](#).

And...was} twenty...was} five (ULT)

The curtain was ten...two and a half (UST)

If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. A cubit is approximately 46cm. For your reference, a more precise conversion to metric is: 9.2m ... 2.3m (See: [Biblical Distance](#))

and the height in width {was} five cubits (ULT) meters...and two and a half...high (UST)

This probably refers to the general dimensions (20 cubits long by 5 cubits wide) but clarifies that the **width** would become the **height** of the curtain when the craftsmen or Levites set up the Dwelling. Alternate translation: "and the width, which corresponded to the height when hung, was five cubits"

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the curtain of](#)
- [the curtains of](#)
- [the gate of](#)
- [the courtyard](#)
- [the courtyard](#)
- [and purple](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the entrance of](#)
- [the courtyard](#)
- [the courtyard](#)
- [For...they made} a curtain](#)
- [the other curtains around](#)
- [purple](#)

ULT

18 [And the curtain of the gate of the courtyard](#) {was the} work of an embroiderer, blue [and purple](#) and worm of scarlet and twisted fine linen. And the length {was} twenty cubits and the height in width {was} five cubits, just as [the curtains of the courtyard](#),

UST

18 For [the entrance of the courtyard](#), [{they made} a curtain](#) from finely twined linen, and a skilled weaver embroidered it with blue, [purple](#), and red yarn. The curtain was ten meters long and two and a half meters high, just like [the other curtains around the courtyard](#).

Exodus 38:19

General Information

See how you translated many of these words in [Exodus 27:17](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- with their...pillars
- which were} bronze
- which were} silver
- which were} silver

Translation Words - UST

- It had...posts
- bronze
- were silver
- with silver

ULT

¹⁹ with their four pillars and their four bases {which were} bronze, and their hooks {which were} silver, and the plating of their tops and its rings {which were} silver.

UST

¹⁹ It had four posts, each with a bronze base. They covered the tops of the posts and their hooks with silver. The loops were silver.

Exodus 38:20

General Information

This verse is very similar to the second half of [Exodus 27:19](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- for the Dwelling
- and for the courtyard
- were} bronze

Translation Words - UST

- They made...of bronze
- to hold the sacred tent
- and the curtains...the courtyard

ULT

²⁰ And all the tent pegs for the Dwelling and for the courtyard all around {were} bronze.

UST

²⁰ They made all the tent pegs to hold the sacred tent and the curtains around the courtyard of bronze.

Exodus 38:21

which was recorded (ULT) to write the list (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: “which the Levites recorded” (See: [Active or Passive](#))

according to the mouth of Moses (ULT) Moses instructed (UST)

This is an idiom referring to Moses telling them to make these records. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: “following Moses’ instructions” (See: [Idiom](#))

by the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest (ULT) Ithamar, son of Aaron the priest, supervised the men (UST)

Here, **by the hand of** could mean: (1) Ithamar was in charge of the group that recorded these records (2) Ithamar was the scribe who actually wrote these records. Alternate translation: “under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron the priest” or “written down by Ithamar son of Aaron the priest” (See: [Metonymy](#))

Ithamar (ULT) Ithamar (UST)

Ithamar is the name of a man. See how you translated this name in [Exodus 6:23](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)
- [the Dwelling of](#)
- [the Testimony](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the Levites](#)
- [the son of](#)
- [Aaron](#)
- [the priest](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)
- [the sacred tent](#)
- [where the Ten Commandments were](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [some men from the tribe of Levi](#)
- [son of](#)
- [Aaron](#)

ULT

²¹ These {are} the records of [the Dwelling, the Dwelling of the Testimony](#) which was recorded according to the mouth of [Moses](#), the work of [the Levites](#) by the hand of [Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest](#).

UST

²¹ This is a list of all the materials that the craftsmen used to make [the sacred tent where the Ten Commandments were](#). [Moses](#) instructed [some men from the tribe of Levi](#) to write the list. [Ithamar, son of Aaron the priest](#), supervised the men who wrote it.

- the priest

Exodus 38:22

And Bezalel son of Uri son of Hur (ULT) Bezalel...son of Uri and grandson of Hur (UST)

Bezalel, Uri, and Hur are the names of men. See how you translated these in [Exodus 31:2](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

Moses (ULT)

Moses (UST)

This sentence leaves out some of the words that a sentence would need in many languages to be complete. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words. Alternate translation: "Moses to do" (See: [Ellipsis](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- son of
- son of
- from the tribe of
- Judah
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- of the tribe
- of Judah
- son of
- and grandson
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

ULT

²² And Bezalel [son of Uri son of Hur, from the tribe of Judah](#), made everything that [Yahweh had commanded Moses](#).

UST

²² Bezalel [of the tribe of Judah, son of Uri and grandson of Hur](#) made all the things that [Yahweh had commanded Moses](#) to make.

Exodus 38:23

Oholiab son of Ahisamak (ULT)

Oholiab son of Ahisamak (UST)

Oholiab and **Ahisamak** are names of men. See how you translated these in [Exodus 31:6](#). (See: [How to Translate Names](#))

an engraver and a designer and an embroiderer in blue and in purple and in scarlet and in fine linen (ULT)
Oholiab was a skilled engraver who made artistic things. He embroidered designs using blue, purple, and red woolen yarn, and linen (UST)

This is very similar to part of [Exodus 35:35](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [son of](#)
- [from the tribe of](#)
- [Dan](#)
- [and in purple](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [son of](#)
- [from the tribe of](#)
- [Dan](#)
- [purple](#)

ULT

²³ And Oholiab [son of Ahisamak](#), [from the tribe of Dan](#), an engraver and a designer and an embroiderer in blue [and in purple](#) and in scarlet and in fine linen, {was} with him.

UST

²³ Oholiab [son of Ahisamak](#), [from the tribe of Dan](#) worked with Bezelel. Oholiab was a skilled engraver who made artistic things. He embroidered designs using blue, [purple](#), and red woolen yarn, and linen.

Exodus 38:24

All the gold used (ULT)

All the gold that they used (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "All the gold that the craftsmen used" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

was} 29 talents and 730 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary (ULT)

weighed 965 kilograms. They used the official standard when they weighed (UST)

A talent is about 34 kilograms, and a shekel is about 11 grams. There were evidently shekels of more than one weight at the time; **by the shekel of the sanctuary** specified which one was to be used. See how you translated this in [Exodus 30:13](#). If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. (See: [Biblical Weight](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the gold](#)
- [the gold](#)
- [the sanctuary](#)
- [the sanctuary](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the gold](#)
- [the gold](#)
- [the sacred tent](#)
- [They used the official standard when they weighed](#)

ULT

²⁴ All [the gold](#) used for the work, in all the work of [the sanctuary](#)—it was [the gold](#) from the raised offering—{was} 29 talents and 730 shekels, by the shekel of [the sanctuary](#).

UST

²⁴ All [the gold](#) that they used to make [the sacred tent](#) weighed 965 kilograms. [They used the official standard when they weighed the gold](#) that the people dedicated to Yahweh.

Exodus 38:25

was} 100 talents and 1, 775 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary (ULT) weighed 3, 420 kilograms. They also used the official standard when they weighed the silver (UST)

A talent is about 34 kilograms, and a shekel is about 11 grams. There were evidently shekels of more than one weight at the time, **by the shekel of the sanctuary** specified which one was to be used. See [the previous verse](#). If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. (See: [Biblical Weight](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the silver of](#)
- [the congregation](#)
- [the sanctuary](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [All the silver that](#)
- [the people](#)
- [They also used the official standard when they weighed the silver](#)

ULT

²⁵ [And the silver of](#) the counted of [the congregation](#) {was} 100 talents and 1, 775 shekels, by the shekel of [the sanctuary](#),

UST

²⁵ [All the silver that the people](#) {contributed when the leaders took the} census weighed 3, 420 kilograms. [They also used the official standard when they weighed the silver.](#)

Exodus 38:26

one hundred talents

See how you translated many of the same things in [Exodus 30:13-14](#).

a beka for a head (half a shekel), by the shekel of...sanctuary (ULT) and each man had paid a silver coin that weighed about five grams, according to the official standard (UST)

A beka is 1/2 a shekel. A shekel is 11 grams. There were evidently shekels of more than one weight at the time; **by the shekel of the sanctuary** specified which one was to be used. See [verse 24](#). If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. Alternate translation: “five and a half grams” or “5 1/2 grams” (See: [Biblical Weight](#))

half a...shekel (ULT) a silver coin that weighed about five grams (UST)

A **half** means one part out of two equal parts. (See: [Fractions](#))

the...from every passer over to the counted ones from a son of 20 years and older—from 603, 550 (ULT) They had counted all the men who were at least twenty years old...That was a total of 603, 550 men (UST)

Here the account leaves out some of the words that a sentence would need in many languages to be complete. The idea that this silver was “received” **from** these “men” is left out. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. Alternate translation: “received from every passer over to the counted ones from a son of 20 years and older—received from 603,550 men” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

from a son of 20 years (ULT) who were...twenty years old (UST)

This is an idiom meaning 20 years old. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use an equivalent idiom or use plain language. Alternate translation: “from those 20 years old” (See: [Idiom](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the...sanctuary](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [according to the official standard](#)

ULT

²⁶ a beka for a head (half a shekel), by the shekel of the [sanctuary](#), from every passer over to the counted ones from a son of 20 years and older—from 603, 550.

UST

²⁶ They had counted all the men who were at least twenty years old, and each man had paid a silver coin that weighed about five grams, [according to the official standard](#). That was a total of 603, 550 men.

Exodus 38:27

100 talents of (ULT)

3, 400...of...kilograms (UST)

A talent is about 34 kilograms. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. (See: [Biblical Weight](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [silver](#)
- [the sanctuary](#)
- [the curtain](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [silver](#)
- [the sacred tent's](#)
- [curtains](#)

ULT

²⁷ And 100 talents of [silver](#) were cast for the bases of [the sanctuary](#) and the bases of [the curtain](#)—100 bases for the 100 talents, a talent for a base.

UST

²⁷ It took 3, 400 kilograms of [silver](#) to make the bases under the posts that supported [the sacred tent's curtains](#). They used 34 kilograms for each of the 100 bases.

Exodus 38:28

the 1, 775 (ULT)

the remaining...20 kilograms of silver (UST)

Here the words **shekels of silver** have been omitted because they are understood from [verse 25](#). If your readers might misunderstand this, you could supply these words from the context. Alternate translation: “the 1,775 shekels of silver” (See: [Ellipsis](#))

Bezalel

See how you translated some of these in [Exodus 27:17](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [for the pillars](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [for the posts](#)

ULT

²⁸ And he made hooks [for the pillars](#) with the 1, 775. And he overlaid their tops and filleted them.

UST

²⁸ With the remaining the 20 kilograms of silver, they made the hooks [for the posts](#), covered the tops of the posts, and made rounded corners.

Exodus 38:29

**was} 70 talents and 2, 400 shekels (ULT)
about 2, 400 kilograms of (UST)**

A talent is about 34 kilograms, and a shekel is about 11 grams. If it would be helpful to your readers, you could express this in terms of modern measurements, either in the text or a footnote. (See: [Biblical Weight](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [And the bronze of](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [bronze](#)

ULT

²⁹ [And the bronze of](#) the raised offering {was} 70 talents and 2, 400 shekels.

UST

²⁹ The people had contributed about 2, 400 kilograms of [bronze](#).

Exodus 38:30

grate of (ULT)

grate (UST)

A **grate** is a frame of crossed bars for holding wood when burning. See how you translated this in [Exodus 27:4](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [of the tent of meeting](#)
- [the altar](#)
- [the altar](#)
- [of bronze](#)
- [bronze](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent](#)
- [the altar...for burning sacrifices](#)
- [grate](#)
- [the altar...for burning sacrifices](#)
- [its](#)

ULT

³⁰ And with it he made the bases of the entrance [of the tent of meeting](#) and [the altar of bronze](#) and its grate of [bronze](#) and all the equipment of [the altar](#)

UST

³⁰ With the bronze he made the bases to support the posts at the entrance of [the sacred tent](#), [the altar {for burning sacrifices}](#) with its [grate](#) and [its](#) tools,

Exodus 38:31

the tent pegs of...the tent pegs of (ULT) the pegs...the pegs (UST)

These are sharp bronze stakes that were used to secure the corners of a tent to the ground. See how you translated this in [Exodus 27:19](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the...courtyard](#)
- [the courtyard](#)
- [the...courtyard](#)
- [the entrance of](#)
- [the Dwelling](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the courtyard](#)
- [to the courtyard](#)
- [for the curtains...the courtyard](#)
- [for the entrance](#)
- [for the sacred tent](#)

ULT

³¹ and the bases of the surrounding [courtyard](#) and the bases of [the entrance of the courtyard](#) and all of the tent pegs of [the Dwelling](#) and all of the tent pegs of the surrounding [courtyard](#).

UST

³¹ the bases {for the posts that supported the curtains} that surrounded [the courtyard](#), the bases [for the entrance to the courtyard](#), and the pegs [for the sacred tent](#) and [for the curtains](#) around [the courtyard](#).

Exodus 39

Exodus 39 General Notes

- This chapter continues the record of the construction in almost exact repetition of Yahweh's instructions. The special, holy clothing mentioned in previous chapters is produced to the correct specifications in this chapter. (See: [holy](#), [holiness](#), [unholy](#), [sacred](#)) Be sure to consult your previous work to maintain consistency. Verses 1-31 of this chapter follow [Exodus 28:1-37](#) with some differences. Verses 33-41 follow [35:10-19](#).
- Throughout the chapter the people making the items are referred to interchangeably as **he** or **they**. Both are generic nouns referring to any of the team of skilled craftsmen. You could change all instances to "they" or "he" if that would be understood better in your language. (See: [Generic Noun Phrases](#) and [First, Second or Third Person](#))

Exodus 39:1

as Yahweh had commanded Moses

See how you translated similar instructions in [Exodus 28:4-5](#).

the clothes of...holiness (ULT) holy...vestments (UST)

If your language does not use an abstract noun for the idea of **holiness**, you can express the same idea in another way. See how you translated this in [28:2](#). Alternate translation: "the holy clothes" (See: [Abstract Nouns](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [and the purple](#)
- [for service](#)
- [in the Holy Place](#)
- [holiness](#)
- [for Aaron](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [in the Holy Place](#)
- [holy](#)
- [for Aaron to wear](#)
- [while he served Yahweh as a priest](#)
- [purple](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

¹ And from the blue [and the purple](#) and the worm of scarlet they made finely-woven clothes [for service in the Holy Place](#). And they made the clothes of [holiness](#) which {were} [for Aaron](#), just as [Yahweh had commanded Moses](#).

UST

¹ Bezalel, Oholiab, and the other skilled workmen made the beautiful [holy](#) vestments [for Aaron to wear while he served Yahweh as a priest in the Holy Place](#). They made them from blue, [purple](#), and red woolen cloth, exactly as [Yahweh had commanded Moses](#).

Exodus 39:2

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 28:6](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the ephod
- from gold
- and purple

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred apron
- purple
- from...and with {fine} gold {wire}

ULT

² And he made the ephod from gold, blue, and purple, worm of scarlet, and twisted fine linen.

UST

² He made the sacred apron from finely twisted linen, blue, purple, and red thread, and with {fine} gold {wire}.

Exodus 39:3

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- the purple

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- purple

ULT

³ And they hammered the thin plates of gold, and he cut {them} into threads to work among the blue and among the purple and among the worm of scarlet and among the fine linen, the work of a skillful craftsman.

UST

³ They hammered some thin sheets of gold and cut them into thin strips that they embroidered into the fine linen and into the blue, purple, and red cloth.

Exodus 39:4

Connecting Statement:

This verse is very similar to [28:7](#).

ULT

⁴ They made joined shoulder pieces for it. It was joined on its two corners.

UST

⁴ They made shoulder straps to attach the two sides of the ephod together.

Exodus 39:5

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 28:8](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- of gold
- and purple
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- purple
- and {fine} gold {thread}
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

ULT

⁵ And the skillfully crafted sash of the ephod which is on it was from it, of like workmanship, of gold, blue, and purple and worm of scarlet and twined fine linen, just as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

UST

⁵ {They made} a carefully woven belt that matched the sacred apron. They made it from the same piece of cloth as the apron. (That cloth was finely twisted linen with {skillfully embroidered} blue, purple, red thread, and {fine} gold {thread}.) {They sewed it} onto the apron, exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Exodus 39:6

General Information:

See how you translated many of these words in [Exodus 28:9](#) and especially [Exodus 28:11](#). Here, as there, the **sons of Israel** literally means the twelve sons, Rueben through Benjamin, not the Israelite nation.

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- The names...of...were
- sons...the...of
- Israel

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- the names of
- the twelve sons of
- Jacob

ULT

⁶ And they made the stones of onyx {with} ornamental settings of gold surrounding {them}. The names of the sons of Israel {were} engraved on {them like} the engravings of a signet.

UST

⁶ They cut two onyx stones and mounted them in decorative gold settings. They engraved the names of the twelve sons of Jacob on the stones like someone engraves a signet ring.

Exodus 39:7

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to the first half of [Exodus 28:12](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the ephod
- for the sons of
- Israel
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred apron
- the names of the 12 tribes of Israel
- the names of the 12 tribes of Israel
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

ULT

⁷ And he put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod as stones of reminder for the sons of Israel, as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

UST

⁷ They fastened the stones onto the shoulder straps of the sacred apron to memorialize the names of the 12 tribes of Israel, exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Exodus 39:8

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 28:15](#); a few words are omitted here.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the breastpiece](#)
- [the ephod](#)
- [from gold](#)
- [and purple](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred pouch](#)
- [as the sacred apron](#)
- [with gold](#)
- [purple](#)

ULT

⁸ And he made [the breastpiece](#), the work of a skillful craftsman, like the work of [the ephod](#), [from gold](#), blue, and [purple](#) and worm of scarlet and twisted fine linen.

UST

⁸ He made [the sacred pouch](#) of the same materials [as the sacred apron](#) and skillfully embroidered it in the same way [with gold](#), blue, [purple](#), and red finely twisted linen.

Exodus 39:9

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 28:16](#); a few words are added or repeated here.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the breastpiece](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the pouch](#)

ULT

⁹ It was square, folded double. They made [the breastpiece](#), its length: a span; and its width: a span folded double.

UST

⁹ They folded the material double so that they made [the pouch](#) a double-folded square 23 centimeters long and 23 centimeters wide.

Exodus 39:10

They set in it

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 28:17](#).

ULT

¹⁰ And they set in it four rows of precious stones. The first row {was} a row of a ruby, of a topaz, and of a garnet.

UST

¹⁰ They fastened four rows of valuable stones onto the pouch. In the first row, they put a red ruby, a yellow topaz, and a red garnet.

Exodus 39:11

an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond

This verse is identical to [Exodus 28:18](#).

ULT

¹¹ And the second row: an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

UST

¹¹ They put a green emerald, a blue sapphire, and a white diamond in the second row.

Exodus 39:12

a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst

This verse is identical to [Exodus 28:19](#).

ULT

¹² And the third row: a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst.

UST

¹² They put a red jacinth, a white agate, and a purple amethyst in the third row.

Exodus 39:13

a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 28:20](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- gold

Translation Words - UST

- They put tiny gold frames around each of the stones

ULT

¹³ And the fourth row: a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. {The stones were} surrounded by ornamental gold settings.

UST

¹³ They put a yellow beryl, an onyx, and a green jasper in the fourth row. They put tiny gold frames around each of the stones.

Exodus 39:14

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 28:21](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the names of
- their...names
- its name
- the sons of
- Israel
- tribes

Translation Words - UST

- the name of
- the name of
- These name-stones
- one of the...sons of
- Jacob
- tribes of Israel

ULT

14 And the precious stones {were} according to [the names of the sons of Israel](#)—they {were} according to their 12 [names](#). Each {was like} the engraving of a signet according to [its name](#)—for the 12 [tribes](#).

UST

14 {They carved} [the name of one of the 12 sons of Jacob](#) into each of these stones like they were making signet rings. [These name-stones](#) represented the 12 [tribes of Israel](#).

Exodus 39:15

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 28:22](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the breastpiece](#)
- [pure](#)
- [gold](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [that they made from...gold](#)
- [purified](#)
- [the sacred pouch](#)

ULT

¹⁵ And they made twisted chains on [the breastpiece](#), as a work of rope—[pure gold](#).

UST

¹⁵ They attached two chains [that they made from purified gold](#) and braided like cords to [the sacred pouch](#).

Exodus 39:16

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 28:23-24](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- gold
- the breastpiece

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- gold
- the sacred pouch

ULT

16 And they made two ornamental settings of gold and two rings of gold and put the two rings on the two ends of the breastpiece.

UST

16 They made two decorative gold settings and two gold rings and attached them to the upper corners of the sacred pouch.

Exodus 39:17

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 28:24](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- the breastpiece

Translation Words - UST

- one end of each gold cord
- the pouch

ULT

¹⁷ And they attached the two chains of gold to the rings on the two ends of the breastpiece.

UST

¹⁷ They fastened one end of each gold cord to one of the rings on the top corner of the pouch.

Exodus 39:18

General Information:

This verse is identical to [Exodus 28:25](#) except for verb tense.

Translation Words - ULT

- [the ephod](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred apron](#)

ULT

18 And they attached two of the ends of the two chains to the two ornamental settings. And they attached those to the shoulder pieces of [the ephod](#) at the front of its face.

UST

18 They fastened the other end of each cord to the two decorative settings that enclose the stones. Then they put those on the front side of the shoulder straps of [the sacred apron](#).

Exodus 39:19

General Information:

This verse is identical to [Exodus 28:26](#) except for verb tense.

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- the breastpiece
- the ephod

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- the sacred pouch
- the sacred apron

ULT

¹⁹ And they made two rings of gold, and put them on the two ends of the breastpiece, on the edge which is toward the inner side of the ephod.

UST

¹⁹ Then they made two more gold rings and attached them to the lower corners of the sacred pouch on the inside edges next to the sacred apron.

Exodus 39:20

General Information:

This verse is identical to [Exodus 28:27](#) except for verb tense.

Translation Words - ULT

- gold
- the ephod
- the ephod

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- the sacred apron
- the sacred apron

ULT

²⁰ And they made two rings of gold, and put them on the two shoulder pieces of the ephod on the bottom of the front of its face, close to its joining above the skillfully crafted waistband of the ephod.

UST

²⁰ They made two more gold rings and attached them to the lower part of the front of the shoulder straps near where the shoulder straps join with the sacred apron just above the sash.

Exodus 39:21

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to [Exodus 28:28](#) except for the note about Yahweh's command.

Translation Words - ULT

- the breastpiece
- the breastpiece
- of the ephod
- the ephod
- the ephod
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- the rings on the sacred pouch
- the sacred pouch
- on the sacred apron
- the sash
- the sacred apron
- Yahweh
- had instructed...to do
- Moses

ULT

²¹ And they tied the breastpiece by its rings to the rings of the ephod with a cord of blue to be on the finely crafted waistband of the ephod, so the breastpiece could not become detached from {being} with the ephod just as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

UST

²¹ They tied the rings on the sacred pouch to the rings on the sacred apron with a blue cord, so that the sacred pouch was above the sash and would not come loose from the sacred apron. They did these things exactly as Yahweh had instructed Moses to do.

Exodus 39:22

General Information:

This verse is almost identical to most of [Exodus 28:31-32](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the robe](#)
- [of the ephod](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the robe...that Aaron would wear underneath his](#)
- [sacred apron](#)

ULT

²² And he made [the robe of the ephod](#) entirely of blue, the work of a weaver.

UST

²² Bezalel had a weaver make [the robe](#) {[that Aaron would wear underneath his](#)} [sacred apron](#) from only blue material.

Exodus 39:23

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 28:32](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the robe](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [It](#)

ULT

²³ The opening of [the robe](#) {was} in the middle of it like an opening of a garment. The edge for its opening was all around so that it could not tear.

UST

²³ [It](#) had an opening in the middle like other clothing. They made a border around this opening to prevent the material from tearing.

Exodus 39:24

General Information:

This verse is similar to part of [Exodus 28:33](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the robe](#)
- [pomegranates](#)
- [purple](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [robe](#)
- [decorations that resembled pomegranate fruit](#)
- [purple](#)

ULT

²⁴ On the bottom hem of [the robe](#) they made [pomegranates](#) of twisted blue, [purple](#), and scarlet yarn.

UST

²⁴ At the lower edge of the [robe](#) they fastened [decorations that resembled pomegranate fruit](#). They wove the decorations from blue, [purple](#), and red woolen yarn.

Exodus 39:25

General Information:

This verse is similar to parts of [Exodus 28:33](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- of pure
- gold
- the robe

Translation Words - UST

- from purified
- gold
- the robe

ULT

²⁵ And they made bells of pure gold, and they put the bells between the pomegranates all around on the bottom edge of the robe, between the pomegranates—

UST

²⁵ They made bells from purified gold and fastened them between each of the decorative pomegranates all around the bottom of the robe.

Exodus 39:26

General Information:

The first part of this verse is almost identical to the first part of [Exodus 28:34](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the robe
- for serving
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- the robe
- The robe was} for {Aaron to wear while he} worked as a priest
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

ULT

²⁶ a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate—all around on the hem of the robe for serving, just as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

UST

²⁶ So the pattern was bell, pomegranate, bell, pomegranate, and so on all around the bottom of the robe. {The robe was} for {Aaron to wear while he} worked as a priest, exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Exodus 39:27

General Information:

Verses 27-29 reflect [Exodus 28:39](#), [40](#), and [42](#) but in a different order.

Translation Words - ULT

- the tunics of
- for Aaron
- and for his sons

Translation Words - UST

- For Aaron
- and his sons
- long-sleeved tunics

ULT

27 And they made the tunics of fine linen for Aaron and for his sons, the work of a weaver,

UST

27 For Aaron and his sons, a skilled weaver made long-sleeved tunics from fine linen,

Exodus 39:28

turban

Verses 27-29 reflect [Exodus 28:39](#), [40](#), and [42](#) but in a different order.

ULT

28 and the fine linen turban and the fine linen ornate headbands and the linen undergarments of fine twisted linen

UST

28 the turban and the caps from fine linen, the undershorts from very finely twined linen,

Exodus 39:29

sash

Verses 27-29 reflect [Exodus 28:39](#), [40](#), and [42](#) but in a different order.

Translation Words - ULT

- purple
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- purple
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

ULT

²⁹ and the sash of fine linen and of blue, purple, and scarlet yarn, the work of an embroiderer, just as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

UST

²⁹ and the sash from fine linen with blue, purple, and red woolen embroidery, exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Exodus 39:30

General Information:

This verse is almost identical [Exodus 28:36](#). See [29:6](#) for the **crown of holiness**.

Translation Words - ULT

- holiness of
- Holy
- pure
- gold
- to Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- a sacred ornamental decoration
- Dedicated
- from purified
- gold
- to Yahweh

ULT

³⁰ And they made the rosette of the crown of holiness of pure gold and inscribed an inscription on it, like the engraving on a signet, "Holy to Yahweh."

UST

³⁰ They made a sacred ornamental decoration from purified gold and etched into it the words, 'Dedicated to Yahweh,' just like carving a signet ring.

Exodus 39:31

General Information:

This verse is very similar to [Exodus 28:37](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

³¹ And they put a cord of blue on it to attach it on the top of the turban, just as [Yahweh had commanded Moses](#).

UST

³¹ They attached a blue cord to this for fastening it to the top of the turban, exactly as [Yahweh had commanded Moses](#).

Exodus 39:32

General Information:

This verse marks the end of the narrative of the construction of the Dwelling. More precisely, it seems to mark the beginning of an ending section. Use the natural form in your language for expressing the conclusion of a story. (See: [End of Story](#))

the Dwelling, the tent of meeting (ULT) the sacred tent where they would meet with Yahweh (UST)

The **tabernacle** and **tent of meeting** are the same thing. The two interchangeable terms are brought together here in a poetic doubling to bring this part of the narrative to a close. If your readers would find this confusing you may need to simplify to one or expand in explanation like in the UST. Alternate translation: "holy meeting tent" (See: [Doublet](#))

And the sons of Israel did according to all that Yahweh had commanded Moses; thus they did (ULT) The Israelites had done everything in exactly the way that Yahweh had commanded Moses to have it done (UST)

Here, **thus they did** parallels the whole rest of the sentence. Like the doubling of the terms for **tabernacle** this brings the narrative of building to an emphatic conclusion. If this sort of parallelism would convey a meaning other than this emphatic conclusion in your language you may need to use another natural way to close the narrative with emphasis on the Israelites complete obedience. Alternate translation: "And the sons of Israel faithfully did exactly according to all that Yahweh had commanded Moses" (See: [Parallelism](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)
- [the tent of meeting](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred tent where they would meet with Yahweh](#)
- [the sacred tent where they would meet with Yahweh](#)
- [The Israelites](#)
- [The Israelites](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

³² And all the service of [the Dwelling](#), [the tent of meeting](#), was finished. And [the sons of Israel](#) did according to all that [Yahweh had commanded Moses](#); thus they did.

UST

³² {After this,} they had finished all the work on [the sacred tent where they would meet with Yahweh](#). [The Israelites](#) had done everything in exactly the way that [Yahweh had commanded Moses](#) to have it done.

Exodus 39:33

So the work on the Dwelling, the tent of meeting, was finished. The people of Israel did everything

This verse starts a short narrative of the Israelites bringing and presenting the items for the Dwelling to Moses for inspection. It is a summary of the construction and extended conclusion to the last few chapters. Your team may need to decide how to group verse 32, as it both closes the construction narrative and introduces this next section, which ends with a very similar summary statement in [verses 42-43](#). (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

clasps

This verse, especially the list of items, is very similar to [35:11](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [the tent](#)
- [and its pillars](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [the whole sacred tent structure](#)
- [the tent](#)
- [posts](#)

ULT

³³ And they brought [the Dwelling](#) to [Moses: the tent](#) and all its equipment and its clasps and its frames and its bars [and its pillars](#) and its bases;

UST

³³ The craftsmen brought [Moses the whole sacred tent structure: the tent](#) and all its equipment, the fasteners, frames, crossbars, [posts](#), bases,

Exodus 39:34**the covering of ram skins dyed red, the covering of fine leather**

See how you translated similar phrases to this in [Exodus 26:14](#).

**the curtain of covering (ULT)
the curtain...for hiding {the holiest place (UST)}**

See how you translated similar phrases to this in [35:12](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [rams](#)
- [the curtain of](#)
- [covering](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [rams](#)
- [the curtain](#)
- [for hiding {the holiest place](#)

ULT

³⁴ and the covering of reddened hides of [rams](#) and the covering of hides of sea-cows and [the curtain of covering](#);

UST

³⁴ the red [rams'](#) skin and fine leather hide coverings {for the sacred tent}, [the curtain for hiding {the holiest place}](#),

Exodus 39:35

atonement lid

See how you translated similar phrases to this in [35:12](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Box of...the Testimony](#)
- [the atonement lid](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred chest](#)
- [the chests' lid](#)

ULT

³⁵ [the Box of the Testimony](#) and the poles and [the atonement lid](#);

UST

³⁵ [the sacred chest](#), the poles, [the chests' lid](#),

Exodus 39:36

bread of the presence

This verse is almost identical to 35:13.

Translation Words - ULT

- the bread of

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred bread

ULT

³⁶ the table with all of its equipment and the bread of the faces;

UST

³⁶ the table and all its utensils, the sacred bread to present before God,

Exodus 39:37

bread of the presence

This verse is very similar to [35:14](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- pure
- the...lampstand
- its lamps
- the oil of

Translation Words - UST

- pure {gold}
- the...lampstand
- all its lamps
- the oil to burn for

ULT

³⁷ the pure lampstand with its lamps, lamps of the row, and all its accessories and the oil of the light;

UST

³⁷ the pure {gold} lampstand with all its lamps in a line, and its utensils, and the oil to burn for light,

Exodus 39:38

bread of the presence

This verse is very similar to 35:15.

Translation Words - ULT

- the altar of
- gold
- the oil of
- anointing
- the curtain of
- the tent

Translation Words - UST

- golden
- altar {for burning incense
- the oil
- for anointing
- the curtain for
- the sacred tent

ULT

³⁸ and the altar of gold and the oil of anointing and the incense of fragrance and the curtain of the entrance of the tent;

UST

³⁸ the golden altar {for burning incense}, the oil for anointing, the sweet-smelling incense, the curtain for the entrance to the sacred tent,

Exodus 39:39

grate

This verse is almost identical with [35:16](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- the altar of
- bronze
- bronze

Translation Words - UST

- bronze
- bronze
- the...altar

ULT

³⁹ the altar of bronze and the grate of bronze that {is} for it, its poles and all of its utensils, the basin and its base;

UST

³⁹ the bronze altar and its bronze grating, the poles, and all its implements, the washbasin and its base,

Exodus 39:40

Connecting Statement:

This verse is almost identical with [35:17](#) and parts of [35:18](#).

the Dwelling for the tent of meeting (ULT) in the sacred tent where they would meet Yahweh (UST)

These refer to the same place. See how you translated the doubling in [verse 32](#). Alternate translation: “the Dwelling, that is the tent of meeting” (See: [Doublet](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the curtains of
- the curtain of
- the courtyard
- the courtyard
- its pillars
- the gate of
- the Dwelling
- for the tent of meeting

Translation Words - UST

- the curtains to surround
- the curtain
- the courtyard
- to the courtyard
- the posts
- for the entrance
- in the sacred tent where they would meet Yahweh
- in the sacred tent where they would meet Yahweh

ULT

40 the curtains of the courtyard, its pillars and bases and the curtain of the gate of the courtyard, its ropes and its tent pegs and all the items of the service of the Dwelling for the tent of meeting;

UST

40 the curtains to surround the courtyard and the posts and bases, the curtain for the entrance to the courtyard, the ropes and pegs and all the things for serving in the sacred tent where they would meet Yahweh,

Exodus 39:41**the Dwelling, the tent of meeting**

This verse is identical to [35:19](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [in the Holy Place](#)
- [holiness](#)
- [for Aaron](#)
- [the priest](#)
- [to {be} priests](#)
- [his sons](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [in the Holy Place](#)
- [sacred](#)
- [for Aaron](#)
- [and his sons](#)
- [to wear when...as priests](#)
- [to wear when...as priests](#)

ULT

⁴¹ finely-woven clothing for serving [in the Holy Place](#), the clothing of [holiness](#) for Aaron the [priest](#), and the clothing of his sons, to [{be}](#) [priests](#).

UST

⁴¹ and the beautiful, [sacred](#) vestments for Aaron and his sons to wear when they work [as priests in the Holy Place](#).

Exodus 39:42

Thus the people

This verse is almost identical to the second half of [verse 32](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [The Israelites](#)
- [The Israelites](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

⁴² Thus [the sons of Israel](#) did all the work according to all that [Yahweh had commanded Moses](#).

UST

⁴² [The Israelites](#) had done all the work in exactly the way that [Yahweh had commanded Moses](#) to have it done.

Exodus 39:43

and behold (ULT)

Truly (UST)

Here, the word **behold** draws attention to the information that follows. Use a word or marking in your language that draws attention to the next information.

As Yahweh had commanded, in that way they did it

This (and really verse 42) is the end of the conclusion of the construction of materials portion of the story. The ending began in [verse 32](#). If your language has specific features that should be part of the end of a section like this, consider using them here. (See: [End of Story](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [And...blessed](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [Then...blessed](#)

ULT

⁴³ And [Moses](#) saw all of the work, and behold, they had done it. Just as [Yahweh had commanded](#), thus they had done. And [Moses blessed](#) them.

UST

⁴³ Then [Moses](#) examined everything they had made. Truly, they had done everything exactly as [Yahweh had commanded](#) them to do it. Then [Moses blessed](#) the workmen.

Exodus 40

Exodus 40 General Notes

Structure and Formatting

- In this chapter, **just as Yahweh commanded Moses** is repeated seven times, as in the previous chapter, to show that Moses was obedient to every detail of Yahweh's command.
- This chapter is repetitive both internally and with other parts of the book. Verses 17-33 parallel verses 2-8 in an expanded way.

Possible Translation Difficulties in this Chapter

- The **Dwelling** and **tent of meeting** are the same thing, but both appear next to each other many times in this chapter. The two interchangeable terms are brought together throughout this chapter in a poetic doubling to bring book to a close. If your readers would find this confusing, you may need to simplify to one or expand in explanation like in the UST.
- This chapter says that Moses did all these things. Just like with Bezalel in earlier chapters, it would have been impossible for him to do all this personally. The people helped him set up the Dwelling. In many translations this will more clear if you make this explicit.
- "the glory of Yahweh filled the Dwelling": This phrase indicates that Yahweh began to dwell within the Dwelling, among Israel, in a special way. (See: [glory](#), [glorious](#), [glorify](#) and [tabernacle](#))

Exodus 40:1

There is a transition to a new event at the beginning of this chapter. Use the natural form in your language for introducing a new event. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Moses](#)

ULT

¹ And [Yahweh](#) spoke to [Moses](#), saying,

UST

¹ Then [Yahweh](#) said to [Moses](#),

Exodus 40:2

On the first day of the month, in the first month (ULT)

on the first day of the first month of the year (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "On day one of the month, in month one" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

the Dwelling of...the tent of meeting (ULT)
the sacred tent where you will meet with me (UST)

These refer to the same place. See how you translated the doubling in [39:32](#). Alternate translation: "the Dwelling, that is the tent of meeting" (See: [Doublet](#))

month (ULT)

month of the year (UST)

Here, the new or next year is omitted because it can be inferred from context. However, if that would be misunderstood by your readers (perhaps they would think it just meant "next month" or something), you could add a phrase to make it clear that it is the first month of the year. This refers to exactly one year after God rescued his people from Egypt. See [Exodus 12:2](#). Alternate translation: "month of the year" (See: [Ellipsis](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [On...day of](#)
- [the month](#)
- [month](#)
- [you shall raise up](#)
- [the Dwelling of](#)
- [the tent of meeting](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Set up](#)
- [the sacred tent where you will meet with me](#)
- [the sacred tent where you will meet with me](#)
- [on the](#)
- [day of](#)
- [month of the year](#)

ULT

² "On the first [day of the month](#), in the first [month](#), you shall raise up the [Dwelling of the tent of meeting](#)."

UST

² "Set up the sacred tent where you will meet with me on the first [day of the first month of the year](#)."

Exodus 40:3

**and you shall cover over (ULT)
Hide it by hanging its curtain in front of it
(UST)**

Alternate translation: "and you shall conceal"

Translation Words - ULT

- the...Box...of...the Testimony
- the box
- the curtain

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred chest containing the stone slabs with the Ten Commandments
- by hanging its curtain in front of it
- by hanging its curtain in front of it

ULT

³ And you shall place the **Box** of the **Testimony** there, and you shall cover over **the box** with **the curtain**.

UST

³ Put inside it **the sacred chest** containing the stone slabs with the **Ten Commandments**. **Hide it by hanging its curtain in front of it.**

Exodus 40:4

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- [the lampstand](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the lampstand](#)

ULT

⁴ And you shall bring in the table and arrange its arrangement. And you shall bring in [the lampstand](#) and set up its lamps.

UST

⁴ Bring the table into the sacred tent and neatly organize on it all the things that they made for it. Then bring in [the lampstand](#) and put the lamps up into it.

Exodus 40:5**before the face of (ULT)
in front of (UST)**

Alternate translation: "in front of" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the altar of
- gold
- the Box of the Testimony
- the curtain of
- to the Dwelling

Translation Words - UST

- the gold
- altar
- the sacred chest
- the curtain
- the sacred tent

ULT

⁵ And you shall put the altar of gold for incense before the face of the Box of the Testimony, and you shall place the curtain of the gate to the Dwelling.

UST

⁵ Put the gold altar for burning incense in front of the sacred chest, and set up the curtain at the entrance of the sacred tent.

Exodus 40:6

before the face of (ULT)
in front of (UST)

Alternate translation: "in front of" (See: [Metonymy](#))

the Dwelling, the tent of meeting (ULT)
to the sacred tent where you will meet with me (UST)

These refer to the same place. See how you translated the doubling in [39:32](#). Alternate translation: "the Dwelling, that is the tent of meeting" (See: [Doublet](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the altar of](#)
- [the burnt offering](#)
- [the Dwelling](#)
- [the tent of meeting](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the altar for burning sacrifices](#)
- [the altar for burning sacrifices](#)
- [to the sacred tent where you will meet with me](#)
- [to the sacred tent where you will meet with me](#)

ULT

⁶ And you shall put [the altar of the burnt offering](#) before the face of the gate of [the Dwelling, the tent of meeting](#).

UST

⁶ Put [the altar for burning sacrifices](#) in front of the entrance [to the sacred tent where you will meet with me](#).

Exodus 40:7

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the tent of meeting
- the altar
- water

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred tent
- the altar
- with water

ULT

⁷ And you shall put the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar and put water there.

UST

⁷ Put the washbasin between the sacred tent and the altar, and fill it with water.

Exodus 40:8

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- And you shall set up
- the courtyard
- the courtyard
- the curtain of
- the gate of

Translation Words - UST

- Hang
- the curtains...to make the courtyard
- the courtyard's
- entrance
- curtain

ULT

⁸ And you shall set up the courtyard around it, and set up the curtain of the gate of the courtyard.

UST

⁸ Hang the curtains around the outside to make the courtyard, and also hang up the courtyard's entrance curtain.

Exodus 40:9

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the oil of
- anointing
- and anoint
- the Dwelling
- And you shall set apart
- holy

Translation Words - UST

- the oil for anointing
- the oil for anointing
- and put it on
- the sacred tent
- to consecrate...to me
- dedicated to me

ULT

⁹ And you shall take the oil of anointing and anoint the Dwelling and everything that is in it. And you shall set apart it and all its furnishings, and it will be holy.

UST

⁹ Then take the oil for anointing and put it on the sacred tent and everything that is in it, to consecrate it all to me. Then it will be dedicated to me.

Exodus 40:10

a holiest holy thing (ULT) be scared, dedicated to me (UST)

Here, **holiest holy** means extremely or uniquely holy. If this form would not express that this item would become uniquely holy in your language you may need to find another way to express this idea. See how you translated this in [Exodus 29:37](#). Alternate translation: “a most holy thing” or “extraordinarily holy” (See: [Possession](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the altar of
- the altar
- the altar
- the burnt offering
- And you shall set apart
- a...holy thing
- holiest

Translation Words - UST

- on the altar
- the altar
- it
- on which the priests will burn the sacrifices
- This will consecrate...to me
- be scared, dedicated to me
- be scared, dedicated to me

ULT

¹⁰ And you shall anoint the altar of the burnt offering and all its utensils. And you shall set apart the altar, and the altar will be a holiest holy thing.

UST

¹⁰ Also put some of the oil on the altar on which the priests will burn the sacrifices and on all the things that they will use at the altar. This will consecrate the altar to me. Then it will be scared, dedicated to me.

Exodus 40:11

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- [set...apart](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [to consecrate...to me](#)

ULT

¹¹ And you shall anoint the basin and its base and [set](#) it [apart](#).

UST

¹¹ Also put some of the oil on the washbasin and its base, [to consecrate](#) them [to me](#).

Exodus 40:12

General Information:

Verses 12-15 are similar to [Exodus 29:4-9](#).

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- his sons
- the tent of meeting
- and wash

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron
- his sons
- the sacred tent
- and wash

ULT

¹² And you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the gate of the tent of meeting and wash them with water.

UST

¹² Then bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance of the sacred tent and wash them with water.

Exodus 40:13

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Aaron
- holiness
- and set...apart
- and he will serve as a priest

Translation Words - UST

- set...apart
- for serving...as a priest
- his sacred vestments
- him

ULT

¹³ And you shall clothe Aaron with the garments of holiness and anoint him and set him apart, and he will serve as a priest to me.

UST

¹³ Then set Aaron apart for serving me as a priest by putting his sacred vestments on him and by pouring oil on him.

Exodus 40:14

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- his sons
- with} tunics

Translation Words - UST

- Aaron's sons
- their special tunics

ULT

¹⁴ And you shall bring his sons and clothe them {with} tunics.

UST

¹⁴ Also bring Aaron's sons and put their special tunics on them,

Exodus 40:15

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- And you shall anoint
- you anointed
- their anointing
- their father
- and they will serve as priests
- a priesthood
- forever
- throughout their generations

Translation Words - UST

- then pour oil on
- you did on
- By pouring oil on them
- their father
- This will consecrate them to serve...as priests
- priests
- throughout all their future generations
- throughout all their future generations

ULT

¹⁵ And you shall anoint them just as you anointed their father, and they will serve as priests to me. And their anointing will cause them to be a priesthood forever throughout their generations.”

UST

¹⁵ then pour oil on them just as you did on their father. This will consecrate them to serve me as priests. By pouring oil on them, you will cause them and their descendants to be priests throughout all their future generations.”

Exodus 40:16

General Information:

This statement starts a new section in which Moses does all the things **just as Yahweh had commanded**; this poetic obedience statement was seen so often in the previous chapter. You may wish to mark this transition and poetic statement in a particular way in your language that is similar to how you did in the last chapter. See 39:32. (See: [Introduction of a New Event](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded...to do](#)

ULT

16 And [Moses](#) did according to all that [Yahweh had commanded](#) him. Thus he did.

UST

16 [Moses](#) did all these things exactly as [Yahweh had commanded](#) him [to do](#).

Exodus 40:17

that} the Dwelling was raised up (ULT) the people set up the sacred tent (UST)

The use of the passive here indicates that the important thing is the completion of the task of setting up the tent on the specific date Yahweh had commanded. If your language would show that focus in a different way, use a natural form to do that. Alternate translation: "that they set up the Dwelling" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

in the first month, the second year, on the first of the month (ULT)

On the first day...of...the first...month...of Israel's second year (UST)

This refers to exactly one year after God rescued his people from Egypt. See [Exodus 12:2](#).

in the first month, the second year, on the first of (ULT)

On the first day...of...the first...month...of Israel's second year (UST)

If your language does not use ordinal numbers, you can use cardinal numbers here. Alternate translation: "in month one, year two, on day one of" (See: [Ordinal Numbers](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [in...month](#)
- [the month](#)
- [the Dwelling](#)
- [that...was raised up](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [of...month](#)
- [On the first day](#)
- [the people set up](#)
- [the sacred tent](#)

ULT

¹⁷ And it was in the first [month](#), the second year, on the first of [the month](#) {that} [the Dwelling was raised up](#).

UST

¹⁷ [On the first day](#) of the first [month](#) of Israel's second year, [the people set up the sacred tent](#).

Exodus 40:18

And Moses raised up the Dwelling and placed its bases (ULT)

Moses set up the sacred tent, and its bases (UST)

Moses was the leader. It would have been impossible for him to do all this personally; the people helped him set up the Dwelling. All references to Moses from here to all the Dwelling assembly listing through [verse 33](#) can be understood this way. Alternate translation: "And Moses directed the people to raise up the Dwelling, and they placed its bases"(See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Moses](#)
- [And...raised up](#)
- [and set up](#)
- [the Dwelling](#)
- [its pillars](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Moses](#)
- [set up](#)
- [and posts](#)
- [the sacred tent](#)
- [and posts](#)

ULT

¹⁸ And [Moses raised up the Dwelling](#) and placed its bases and set up its frames and placed its bars [and set up its pillars](#).

UST

¹⁸ [Moses set up the sacred tent](#), and its bases, frames, crossbars, [and posts](#).

Exodus 40:19

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the Dwelling
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred tent
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

ULT

¹⁹ And he spread the tent over the Dwelling and put the covering of the tent over it on the top, just as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

UST

¹⁹ He spread out the two layers of coverings over the sacred tent, exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Exodus 40:20

And he took...And he put (ULT)

Then Moses took...He put (UST)

In this verse and the next, there may be an exception to the word **he** meaning someone who was helping Moses, because these items were especially sacred. If you have been using a form that indicates that people are helping Moses construct the Dwelling, you may consider switching to "Moses" here. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the testimony](#)
- [the box](#)
- [the box](#)
- [the box](#)
- [the atonement lid](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the two stone slabs on which Yahweh had written his commandments](#)
- [the sacred chest](#)
- [the chest](#)
- [it](#)
- [the lid](#)

ULT

²⁰ And he took [the testimony](#) and put {it} into [the box](#). And he put the poles on [the box](#) and put [the atonement lid](#) on the top of [the box](#).

UST

²⁰ Then Moses took [the two stone slabs on which Yahweh had written his commandments](#) and put them into [the sacred chest](#). He put the carrying poles into the rings on [the chest](#) and put [the lid](#) on top of [it](#).

Exodus 40:21

And he brought...And he set up (ULT) Then Moses took...He hung (UST)

In this verse and the previous verse, there may be an exception to the word **he** meaning someone who was helping Moses, because these items were especially sacred. If you have been using a form that indicates that people are helping Moses construct the Dwelling, you may consider switching to "Moses" here. (See: [Pronouns — When to Use Them](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the box](#)
- [the Box of the Testimony](#)
- [the Dwelling](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [Moses](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the chest](#)
- [the chest containing the commandments](#)
- [the Holy Place inside} the sacred tent](#)
- [Yahweh](#)
- [had commanded](#)
- [him](#)

ULT

²¹ And he brought [the box](#) into [the Dwelling](#). And he set up the curtain of covering, and he covered over [the Box of the Testimony](#), just as [Yahweh had commanded Moses](#).

UST

²¹ Then Moses took [the chest](#) into {[the Holy Place inside} the sacred tent. He hung the thick curtain to conceal \[the chest containing the commandments\]\(#\), exactly as \[Yahweh had commanded him\]\(#\).](#)

Exodus 40:22

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- into the tent of meeting
- the Dwelling
- the curtain

Translation Words - UST

- inside the sacred tent
- its
- curtain {that hid the sacred chest}

ULT

²² And he put the table into the tent of meeting, on the north side of the Dwelling, outside of the curtain.

UST

²² He set the table inside the sacred tent, on its north side, outside the curtain {that hid the sacred chest}.

Exodus 40:23**before the face of (ULT)
to display it before (UST)**

Alternate translation: "in the presence of" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- bread
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- the bread
- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- had commanded...to do
- Moses

ULT

²³ And he arranged on it the arrangement of bread before the face of Yahweh, just as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

UST

²³ He laid out the bread neatly on the table to display it before Yahweh, exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses to do.

Exodus 40:24

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the lampstand
- into the tent of meeting
- the Dwelling

Translation Words - UST

- the lampstand
- inside the sacred tent
- inside the sacred tent

ULT

²⁴ And he put the lampstand into the tent of meeting, across from the table, on the south side of the Dwelling.

UST

²⁴ He set the lampstand inside the sacred tent, on the south side, on the opposite side from the table.

Exodus 40:25

before the face of (ULT) in...presence (UST)

Alternate translation: "in the presence of" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- Yahweh
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- Yahweh's
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

ULT

²⁵ And he lifted up the lamps before the face of Yahweh, just as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

UST

²⁵ Then he set the lamps on the lampstand in Yahweh's presence, exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Exodus 40:26**in front of the face of (ULT)
in front of (UST)**

Alternate translation: "in front of" (See: [Metonymy](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- the altar of
- gold
- into the tent of meeting
- the curtain

Translation Words - UST

- gold
- the...altar...for burning incense
- inside the sacred tent
- the curtain {that hid the Most Holy Place

ULT

²⁶ And he put the altar of gold into the tent of meeting in front of the face of the curtain.

UST

²⁶ He set the gold altar {for burning incense} inside the sacred tent, in front of the curtain {that hid the Most Holy Place}.

Exodus 40:27

in front of the curtain

See 30:7.

Translation Words - ULT

- incense of
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- some...incense
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

ULT

²⁷ And he caused smoke on it, **incense of fragrance**, just as **Yahweh had commanded Moses**.

UST

²⁷ He burned **some** sweet-smelling **incense** on it, exactly as **Yahweh had commanded Moses**.

Exodus 40:28

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the curtain of
- the Dwelling

Translation Words - UST

- the curtain
- to the sacred tent

ULT

²⁸ And he set up the curtain of the gate of the Dwelling.

UST

²⁸ He hung the curtain at the entrance to the sacred tent.

Exodus 40:29

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the altar of
- the burnt offering
- the burnt offering
- Moses
- the Dwelling...of
- the tent...meeting
- the grain offering
- Yahweh
- had commanded

Translation Words - UST

- to the sacred tent where they would meet with Yahweh
- to the sacred tent where they would meet with Yahweh
- the altar
- for burning sacrifices
- meat
- flour
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

ULT

²⁹ And he put the altar of the burnt offering at the gate of the Dwelling, the tent of meeting, and offered up on it the burnt offering and the grain offering, just as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

UST

²⁹ At the entrance to the sacred tent where they would meet with Yahweh, he placed the altar for burning sacrifices. Then he sacrificed meat and flour by burning them on it, just as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Exodus 40:30

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the tent of meeting
- the altar

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred tent
- the bronze altar

ULT

³⁰ And he placed the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and he put water for washing there.

UST

³⁰ He set the washbasin between the sacred tent and the bronze altar, and filled the washbasin with water.

Exodus 40:31

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- Moses
- and Aaron
- and his sons
- And...would wash

Translation Words - UST

- Moses
- Aaron, and
- his sons
- would wash

ULT

³¹ And Moses, and Aaron, and his sons would wash their hands and their feet from it.

UST

³¹ Moses, Aaron, and his sons would wash their hands and feet in the washbasin.

Exodus 40:32

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the tent of meeting
- the altar
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred tent
- the altar
- Yahweh
- had commanded
- Moses

ULT

³² Whenever they went into the tent of meeting and whenever they went close to the altar, they washed themselves, just as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

UST

³² Whenever they went into the sacred tent and whenever they came close to the altar, they would wash themselves, exactly as Yahweh had commanded Moses.

Exodus 40:33

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- And he raised up
- the courtyard
- the courtyard
- the Dwelling
- and the altar
- the curtain of
- the gate of
- Moses

Translation Words - UST

- He hung up
- the curtains that
- to the courtyard
- the sacred tent
- and the altar
- the curtain
- at the entrance
- Moses

ULT

³³ And he raised up the courtyard around the Dwelling and the altar. And he set up the curtain of the gate of the courtyard. And Moses finished the work.

UST

³³ He hung up {the curtains that} surrounded the sacred tent and the altar and the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard. Then Moses was finished building the sacred tent complex.

Exodus 40:34

(There are no notes for this verse.)

Translation Words - ULT

- the tent of...meeting
- the Dwelling
- and the glory of
- Yahweh

Translation Words - UST

- the sacred tent
- the sacred tent
- Yahweh's
- and...power and brilliant light

ULT

³⁴ And the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of Yahweh filled the Dwelling.

UST

³⁴ Then the tall cloud covered the sacred tent, and Yahweh's power and brilliant light filled the sacred tent.

Exodus 40:35

And Moses was not able to go into the tent of meeting, because the cloud had settled on it and the glory of Yahweh had filled the Dwelling (ULT)

Because the cloud covered it and Yahweh's light was very bright, Moses was not able to enter the sacred tent (UST)

If it would be more natural in your language, you could reverse the order of these phrases since the second phrase gives the reason for the result that the first phrase describes. Alternate translation:

"Because the cloud had settled on it and the glory of Yahweh had filled the Dwelling, Moses was not able to go into the tent of meeting."

ULT

³⁵ And **Moses** was not able to go into **the tent of meeting**, because the cloud had settled on it **and the glory of Yahweh** had filled **the Dwelling**.

UST

³⁵ Because the cloud covered it and **Yahweh's light** was very bright, **Moses** was not able to enter **the sacred tent**.

Translation Words - ULT

- **Moses**
- **the tent of meeting**
- **the Dwelling**
- **and the glory of**
- **Yahweh had**

Translation Words - UST

- **Yahweh's**
- **and...light**
- **Moses**
- **the sacred tent**
- **the sacred tent**

Exodus 40:36

And whenever the cloud was taken up (ULT) From that day,} whenever Yahweh's cloud moved (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "Whenever Yahweh's cloud moved" (See: [Active or Passive](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [the Dwelling](#)
- [the sons of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [the sacred, tent](#)
- [the Israelites](#)
- [the Israelites](#)

ULT

³⁶ And whenever the cloud was taken up from over [the Dwelling](#), [the sons of Israel](#) would set out on all their travels,

UST

³⁶ {From that day,} whenever Yahweh's cloud moved off of [the sacred, tent the Israelites](#) would {pack their camp} and start traveling.

Exodus 40:37

but if the cloud was not taken up, then they would not set out until the day it was taken up (ULT)

But if the cloud did not move, they stayed where they were and waited for a day that the cloud moved (UST)

If your language does not use the passive form in this way, you can state this in active form or in another way that is natural in your language. Alternate translation: "but if Yahweh did not take up the cloud, then they would not set out until the day he took it up." (See: [Active or Passive](#))

ULT

³⁷ but if the cloud was not taken up, then they would not set out until the day it was taken up.

UST

³⁷ But if the cloud did not move, they stayed where they were and waited for a day that the cloud moved.

Exodus 40:38

before the eyes of all the house of Israel (ULT) The Israelites could always see {that Yahweh was with them (UST)

Here, **before the eyes of** refers to being able to see. All the Israelites could see the cloud and fire. Alternate translation: “and all the house of Israel could see it” (See: [Metonymy](#))

the house of Israel (ULT) The Israelites (UST)

Here, **house** represents a people group, the Israelites, who were descended from Jacob, who was also named Israel. If your readers might misunderstand this, you could use a metaphor from your language or translate the meaning. This is a common biblical metaphor, so you may want to check other places this occurs. The **house of Israel** is equivalent to “sons of Israel” or “Israelites.” (See: [Metaphor](#))

Translation Words - ULT

- [Yahweh](#)
- [Dwelling](#)
- [and fire](#)
- [the house of](#)
- [Israel](#)

Translation Words - UST

- [Yahweh's](#)
- [the sacred tent](#)
- [and his fire](#)
- [The Israelites](#)
- [The Israelites](#)

ULT

³⁸ For the cloud of [Yahweh](#) {was} over the [Dwelling](#) by day, and [fire](#) was on it by night, before the eyes of all [the house of Israel](#) in all their travels.

UST

³⁸ Wherever the Israelites traveled, [Yahweh's](#) cloud was above [the sacred tent](#) during the day, and [his fire](#) was over it at night. [The Israelites](#) could always see {that Yahweh was with them}.



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Version 33

Abstract Nouns

Description

Abstract nouns are nouns that refer to attitudes, qualities, events, or situations. These are things that cannot be seen or touched in a physical sense, such as happiness, weight, unity, friendship, health, and reason. This is a translation issue because some languages may express a certain idea with an abstract noun, while others would need a different way to express it.

This page answers the question: *What are abstract nouns and how do I deal with them in my translation?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-partsofspeech]]
[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-sentences]]

Remember that nouns are words that refer to a person, place, thing, or idea. Abstract nouns are the nouns that refer to ideas. These can be attitudes, qualities, events, situations, or even relationships between those ideas. These are things that cannot be seen or touched in a physical sense, such as joy, peace, creation, goodness, contentment, justice, truth, freedom, vengeance, slowness, length, weight, and many, many more.

Some languages, such as Biblical Greek and English, use abstract nouns a lot. They provide a way of giving names to actions or qualities. With names, people who speak these languages can talk about the concepts as though they were things. For example, in languages that use abstract nouns, people can say, "I believe in the forgiveness of sin."

But some languages do not use abstract nouns very much. In these languages, speakers may not have the two abstract nouns "forgiveness" and "sin," but they would express the same meaning in other ways. For example, they would express, "I believe that God is willing to forgive people after they have sinned," by using verb phrases instead of nouns for those ideas.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

The Bible that you translate from may use abstract nouns to express certain ideas. Your language might not use abstract nouns for some of those ideas. Instead, it might use phrases to express those ideas. Those phrases will use other kinds of words such as adjectives, verbs, or adverbs to express the meaning of the abstract noun. For example, "What is its **weight**?" could be expressed as "How much does it **weigh**?" or "How **heavy** is it?"

Examples From the Bible

From **childhood** you have known the sacred writings ... (2 Timothy 3:15a ULT)

The abstract noun "childhood" refers to when someone was a child.

But **godliness** with **contentment** is great **gain**. (1 Timothy 6:6 ULT)

The abstract nouns "godliness" and "contentment" refer to being godly and content. The abstract noun "gain" refers to something that benefits or helps someone.

Today **salvation** has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. (Luke 19:9 ULT)

The abstract noun "salvation" here refers to being saved.

The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider **slowness** to be (2 Peter 3:9a ULT)

The abstract noun "slowness" refers to the lack of speed with which something is done.

He will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the **purposes** of the heart. (1 Corinthians 4:5b ULT)

The abstract noun “purposes” refers to the things that people want to do and the reasons they want to do them.

Translation Strategies

If an abstract noun would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here is another option:

(1) Reword the sentence with a phrase that expresses the meaning of the abstract noun. Instead of a noun, the new phrase will use a verb, an adverb, or an adjective to express the idea of the abstract noun.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Reword the sentence with a phrase that expresses the meaning of the abstract noun. Instead of a noun, the new phrase will use a verb, an adverb, or an adjective to express the idea of the abstract noun. Alternative translations are indented below the Scripture example.

... from **childhood** you have known the sacred writings ... (2 Timothy 3:15a ULT)

Ever since **you were a child** you have known the sacred writings.

But **godliness** with **contentment** is great **gain**. (1 Timothy 6:6 ULT)

But **being godly** and **content** is very **beneficial**. But we **benefit** greatly when we **are godly** and **content**. But we **benefit** greatly when we **honor and obey God** and when we are **happy with what we have**.

Today **salvation** has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. (Luke 19:9 ULT)

Today the people in this house **have been saved** ... Today God **has saved** the people in this house ...

The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider **slowness** to be. (2 Peter 3:9a ULT)

The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider **moving slowly** to be.

He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the **purposes** of the heart. (1 Corinthians 4:5b ULT)

He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal **the things that people want to do and the reasons that they want to do them**.

(Go back to: Exodus 1:7; 1:12; 1:13; 1:14; 2:4; 3:3; 3:7; 3:9; 3:17; 3:20; 8:23; 12:12; 12:13; 12:16; 14:13; 15:7; 15:11; 15:13; 16:23; 20:4; 20:6; 22:31; 23:1; 28:2; 28:4; 29:6; 29:29; 30:25; 30:31; 31:3; 32:30; 32:31; 33:12; 33:18; 33:19; 33:22; 34:6; 34:7; 35:21; 35:31; 36:1; 36:2; 39:1)

Active or Passive

Some languages use both active and passive sentences. In active sentences, the subject does the action. In passive sentences, the subject is the one that receives the action. Here are some examples with their subjects bolded:

- Active: **My father** built the house in 2010.
- Passive: **The house** was built in 2010.

Translators whose languages do not use passive sentences will need to know how they can translate passive sentences that they find in the Bible. Other translators will need to decide when to use a passive sentence and when to use the active form.

This page answers the question: *What do active and passive mean, and how do I translate passive sentences?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-sentences]]
[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-verbs]]

Description

Some languages have both active and passive forms of sentences.

- In the active form, the subject does the action and is always mentioned.
- In the passive form, the action is done to the subject, and the one who does the action is not always mentioned.

In the examples of active and passive sentences below, we have bolded the subject.

- active: **My father** built the house in 2010.
- passive: **The house** was built by my father in 2010.
- passive: **The house** was built in 2010. (This does not tell who did the action.)

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

All languages use active forms. Some languages use passive forms, and some do not. Some languages use passive forms only for certain purposes, and the passive form is not used for the same purposes in all of the languages that use it.

Purposes for the Passive

- The speaker is talking about the person or thing the action was done to, not about the person who did the action.
- The speaker does not want to tell who did the action.
- The speaker does not know who did the action.

Translation Principles Regarding the Passive

- Translators whose language does not use passive forms will need to find another way to express the idea.
- Translators whose language has passive forms will need to understand why the passive is used in a particular sentence in the Bible and decide whether or not to use a passive form for that purpose in his translation of the sentence.

Examples From the Bible

Then their shooters shot at your soldiers from off the wall, and some of the king's servants **were killed**, and your servant Uriah the Hittite **was killed** too. (2 Samuel 11:24 ULT)

This means that the enemy's shooters shot and killed some of the king's servants, including Uriah. The point is what happened to the king's servants and Uriah, not who shot them. The purpose of the passive form here is to keep the focus on the king's servants and Uriah.

When the men of the city arose early in the morning, and see, the altar of Baal **was torn down**. (Judges 6:28a ULT)

The men of the town saw what had happened to the altar of Baal, but they did not know who broke it down. The purpose of the passive form here is to communicate this event from the perspective of the men of the town.

It would be better for him if a millstone **were put** around his neck and he **were thrown** into the sea. (Luke 17:2a ULT)

This describes a situation in which a person ends up in the sea with a millstone around his neck. The purpose of the passive form here is to keep the focus on what happens to this person. Who does these things to the person is not important.

Translation Strategies

If your language would use a passive form for the same purpose as in the passage that you are translating, then use a passive form. If you decide that it is better to translate without a passive form, here are some strategies that you might consider.

- (1) Use the same verb in an active sentence and tell who or what did the action. If you do this, try to keep the focus on the person receiving the action.
- (2) Use the same verb in an active sentence, and do not tell who or what did the action. Instead, use a generic expression like "they" or "people" or "someone."
- (3) Use a different verb.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Use the same verb in an active sentence and tell who did the action. If you do this, try to keep the focus on the person receiving the action.

A loaf of bread **was given** him every day from the street of the bakers. (Jeremiah 37:21b ULT)

The king's servants gave Jeremiah a loaf of bread every day from the street of the bakers.

- (2) Use the same verb in an active sentence, and do not tell who did the action. Instead, use a generic expression like "they" or "people" or "someone."

It would be better for him if a millstone **were put** around his neck and he **were thrown** into the sea. (Luke 17:2a ULT)

It would be better for him if **they were to put** a millstone around his neck and **throw** him into the sea.

It would be better for him if **someone were to put** a heavy stone around his neck and **throw** him into the sea.

- (3) Use a different verb in an active sentence.

A loaf of bread **was given** him every day from the street of the bakers. (Jeremiah 37:21 ULT)

He **received** a loaf of bread every day from the street of the bakers.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Abstract Nouns](#)

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-order]]

(Go back to: Exodus 1:7; 3:16; Notes; 5:14; 5:16; 5:18; 6:3; 8:24; 10:7; 10:8; 10:26; 12:13; 12:15; 12:16; 12:19; 12:34; 12:39; 12:46; 12:48; 13:3; 13:7; 14:4; 14:5; 14:17; 14:18; 14:21; 15:8; 15:9; 19:12; 19:13; 20:24; 20:26; Notes; 21:8; 21:12; 21:15; 21:16; 21:17; 21:20; 21:22; 21:28; 21:29; 21:30; 21:32; 21:36; Notes; 22:2; 22:3; 22:4; 22:6; 22:7; 22:8; 22:10; 22:11; 22:12; 22:13; 22:14; 22:15; 22:19; 22:20; 23:12; 23:13; 23:21; 25:15; 25:28; 25:29; 25:31; 25:40; 26:3; 26:30; 27:7; 27:17; 28:7; 28:20; 28:28; 28:32; 28:35; 29:2; 29:34; 29:43; 30:32; 31:14; 31:15; 31:17; 31:18; 32:15; 33:12; 33:16; 33:23; 34:34; 35:2; 35:23; 35:24; 38:21; 38:24; 40:17; 40:36; 40:37)

Aside

Description

An aside is a figure of speech in which someone who is speaking to a person or group pauses to speak confidentially to himself or someone else about those to whom he had been speaking. The speaker does this to indicate in a strong way his thoughts or feelings about that person or group.

This page answers the question: *What is the figure of speech called an "aside"?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro]]

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Many languages do not use asides, and readers could be confused by them. They may wonder why the speaker suddenly starts talking to himself or someone else about the people he is speaking with.

Examples From the Bible

All the men of your covenant are sending you away as far as the border.
The men of your peace are deceiving you and are prevailing against you.
They of your bread will set a trap under you.

There is no understanding in him. (Obadiah 1:7 ULT)

In the first three lines, Yahweh is telling the people of Edom what will happen to them because they did not help the people of Judah. In the fourth line, Yahweh says something about Edom to himself.

And I purified them from everything foreign. And I caused the service watches to stand: for the priests and for the Levites, a man in his work; and for the offering of pieces of wood at the appointed times; and for the firstfruits. **Remember me, my God, for good.** (Nehemiah 13:30-31 ULT)

Nehemiah is speaking to the readers of his account and describing some of the many things he did to restore true worship in Judah after the people returned from exile. But he suddenly turns aside and addresses God, asking God to bless him for what he, Nehemiah, has done for those people.

Translation Strategies

(1) If an aside would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. But if this way of speaking would be confusing, let the speaker continue speaking to the people who are listening to him, but make clear that he is now expressing his thoughts and feelings about them.

(2) If a person speaks a prayer to God as an aside, you can put the prayer in quotation marks to indicate that.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1)

All the men of your covenant are sending you away as far as the border.
The men of your peace are deceiving you and are prevailing against you.
They of your bread will set a trap under you.

There is no understanding in him. (Obadiah 1:7 ULT)

All the men of your covenant are sending you away as far as the border.
The men of your peace are deceiving you and are prevailing against you.
They of your bread will set a trap under you.

You do not understand any of this.

(2)

And I purified them from everything foreign. And I caused the service watches to stand: for the priests and for the Levites, a man in his work; 31 and for the offering of pieces of wood at the appointed times; and for the firstfruits. **Remember me, my God, for good.** (Nehemiah 13:30-31 ULT)

And I cleansed them from everything foreign, and I made assignments for the priests and for the Levites, a man to his own work. And the wood offering at the stated time, and the firstfruits. **“Remember me, my God, for good.”**

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:14](#); [5:5](#); [11:3](#))

Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information

Assumed knowledge is whatever a speaker assumes his audience knows before he speaks and gives them some kind of information. The speaker does not give the audience this information because he believes that they already know it.

This page answers the question: *How can I be sure that my translation communicates the assumed knowledge and implicit information along with the explicit information of the original message?*

When the speaker does give the audience information, he can do so in two ways. The speaker gives explicit information in what he states directly. Implicit Information is what the speaker does not state directly because he expects his audience to be able to learn it from other things he says.

Description

When someone speaks or writes, he has something specific that he wants people to know or do or think about. He normally states this directly. This is explicit information.

The speaker assumes that his audience already knows certain things that they will need to think about in order to understand this information. Normally he does not tell people these things, because they already know them. This is called assumed knowledge.

The speaker does not always directly state everything that he expects his audience to learn from what he says. Implicit information is information that he expects people to learn from what he says even though he does not state it directly.

Often, the audience understands this implicit information by combining what they already know (assumed knowledge) with the explicit information that the speaker tells them directly.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

All three kinds of information are part of the speaker's message. If one of these kinds of information is missing, then the audience will not understand the message. Because the target translation is in a language that is very different from the biblical languages and is made for an audience that lives in a very different time and place than the people in the Bible, many times the assumed knowledge or the implicit information is missing from the message. In other words, modern readers do not know everything that the original speakers and hearers in the Bible knew. When these things are important for understanding the message, it is helpful if you include this information in the text or in a footnote.

Examples From the Bible

Then a scribe came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes **have holes**, and the birds of the sky **have nests**, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Matthew 8:19-20 ULT)

Jesus did not say what foxes and birds use holes and nests for, because he assumed that the scribe would have known that foxes sleep in holes in the ground and birds sleep in their nests. This is **assumed knowledge**.

Jesus did not directly say here "I am the Son of Man" but, if the scribe did not already know it, then that fact would be **implicit information** that he could learn because Jesus referred to himself that way. Also, Jesus did not state explicitly that he travelled a lot and did not have a house that he slept in every night. That is **implicit information** that the scribe could learn when Jesus said that he had nowhere to lay his head.

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the mighty deeds had been done in **Tyre and Sidon** which were done in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But

I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the **day of judgment** than for you.
(Matthew 11:21-22 ULT)

Jesus assumed that the people he was speaking to knew that Tyre and Sidon were very wicked, and that the day of judgment is a time when God will judge every person. Jesus also knew that the people he was talking to believed that they were good and did not need to repent. Jesus did not need to tell them these things. This is all **assumed knowledge**.

An important piece of **implicit information** here is that the people he was speaking to would be judged more severely than the people of Tyre and Sidon would be judged **because** they did not repent.

Why do your disciples violate the traditions of the elders? For **they do not wash their hands when they eat bread**. (Matthew 15:2 ULT)

One of the traditions of the elders was a ceremony in which people would wash their hands in order to be ritually clean before eating. People thought that in order to be righteous, they had to follow all the traditions of the elders. This was **assumed knowledge** that the Pharisees who were speaking to Jesus expected him to know. By saying this, they were accusing his disciples of not following the traditions, and thus not being righteous. This is **implicit information** that they wanted him to understand from what they said.

Translation Strategies

If readers have enough assumed knowledge to be able to understand the message, along with any important implicit information that goes with the explicit information, then it is good to leave that knowledge unstated and leave the implicit information implicit. If the readers do not understand the message because one of these is missing for them, then follow these strategies:

(1) If readers cannot understand the message because they do not have certain assumed knowledge, then provide that knowledge as explicit information.

(2) If readers cannot understand the message because they do not know certain implicit information, then state that information clearly, but try to do it in a way that does not imply that the information was new to the original audience.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) If readers cannot understand the message because they do not have certain assumed knowledge, then provide that knowledge as explicit information.

Jesus said to him, "Foxes **have holes**, and the birds of the sky **have nests**, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20 ULT)

The assumed knowledge was that the foxes slept in their holes and birds slept in their nests.

Jesus said to him, "Foxes **have holes to live in**, and the birds of the sky **have nests to live in**, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head and sleep."

It will be more tolerable for **Tyre and Sidon** at the day of judgment than for you (Matthew 11:22 ULT)

The assumed knowledge was that the people of Tyre and Sidon were very, very wicked. This can be stated explicitly.
>

At the day of judgment, it will be more tolerable for **those cities of Tyre and Sidon, whose people were very wicked**, than it will be for you. or At

the day of judgment, It will be more tolerable for those **wicked cities, Tyre and Sidon**, than for you.

Why do your disciples violate the traditions of the elders? For **they do not wash their hands** when they eat bread. (Matthew 15:2 ULT)

The assumed knowledge was that one of the traditions of the elders was a ceremony in which people would wash their hands in order to be ritually clean before eating, which they must do to be righteous. It was not to remove germs from their hands to avoid sickness, as a modern reader might think.

Why do your disciples violate the traditions of the elders? For **they do not go through the ceremonial handwashing ritual of righteousness** when they eat bread.

(2) If readers cannot understand the message because they do not know certain implicit information, then state that information clearly, but try to do it in a way that does not imply that the information was new to the original audience.

Then a scribe came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Matthew 8:19-20 ULT)

The implicit information is that Jesus himself is the Son of Man. Other implicit information is that if the scribe wanted to follow Jesus, then, like Jesus, he would have to live without a house.

Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the sky have nests, but **I, the Son of Man, have no home to rest in. If you want to follow me, you will live as I live.**"

It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you (Matthew 11:22 ULT)

The implicit information is that God would not only judge the people; he would punish them. This can be made explicit.

At the day of judgment, God will **punish Tyre and Sidon**, cities whose people were very wicked, **less severely than he will punish you.**
or:

At the day of judgment, God will **punish you more severely** than Tyre and Sidon, cities whose people were very wicked.

Modern readers may not know some of the things that the people in the Bible and the people who first read it knew. This can make it hard for them to understand what a speaker or writer says, and to learn things that the speaker left implicit. Translators may need to state some things explicitly in the translation that the original speaker or writer left unstated or implicit.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-explicitinfo\]\]](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:22](#); [2:3](#); [2:9](#); [2:12](#); [Notes](#); [3:7](#); [4:17](#); [4:20](#); [7:20](#); [8:6](#); [8:8](#); [8:24](#); [9:6](#); [9:19](#); [9:20](#); [10:6](#); [10:17](#); [10:28](#); [11:8](#); [12:4](#); [12:11](#); [12:27](#); [12:33](#); [13:13](#); [Notes](#); [14:4](#); [15:1](#); [15:14](#); [15:17](#); [15:21](#); [16:8](#); [18:2](#); [18:11](#); [18:14](#); [18:25](#); [19:8](#); [20:26](#); [21:3](#); [21:13](#); [21:19](#); [21:21](#); [21:23](#); [21:24](#); [21:29](#); [21:30](#); [21:32](#); [21:34](#); [21:36](#); [22:15](#); [22:21](#); [23:11](#); [23:24](#); [23:29](#); [24:1](#); [24:8](#); [24:9](#); [24:12](#); [25:4](#); [25:40](#); [26:19](#); [26:21](#); [26:25](#); [27:5](#); [28:25](#); [28:35](#); [29:9](#); [29:20](#); [29:21](#); [29:31](#); [29:40](#); [30:20](#); [Notes](#); [32:5](#); [32:18](#); [32:29](#); [32:32](#); [32:35](#); [33:5](#); [33:6](#); [33:9](#); [33:14](#); [34:7](#); [34:15](#); [34:20](#); [34:25](#); [35:6](#); [36:30](#); [38:8](#))

Background Information

Description

When people tell a story, they normally tell the events in the order that they happened. This sequence of events makes up the storyline. The storyline is full of action verbs that move the story along in time. But sometimes a writer may take a break from the storyline and give some information to help his listeners understand the story better. This type of information is called background information. The background information might be about things that happened before the events he has already told about, or it might explain something in the story, or it might be about something that would happen much later in the story.

This page answers the question: *What is background information, and how can I show that some information is background information?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Order of Events](#)

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/writing-intro]]

Example — The bolded phrases in the story below are all background information.

Peter and John went on a hunting trip because **their village was going to have a feast the next day. Peter was the best hunter in the village. He once killed three wild pigs in one day!** They walked for hours through low bushes until they heard a wild pig. The pig ran, but they managed to shoot the pig and kill it. Then they tied up its legs with some rope **they had brought with them** and carried it home on a pole. When they brought it to the village, Peter's cousin saw the pig and realized that it was his own pig. Peter had mistakenly killed his cousin's pig.

Background information often tells about something that had happened earlier or something that would happen much later. Examples of these are: "their village was going to have a feast the next day," "He once killed three wild pigs in one day," and "that they had brought with them."

Often background information uses "be" verbs like "was" and "were," rather than action verbs. Examples of these are "their village was going to have a feast the next day," and "Peter **was** the best hunter in the village."

Background information can also be marked with words that tell the reader that this information is not part of the event line of the story. In this story, some of these words are "because," "once," and "had."

A writer may use background information:

- to help their listeners be interested in the story
- to help their listeners understand something in the story
- to help the listeners understand why something is important in the story
- to tell the setting of a story
 - > * Setting includes:
 - > * where the story takes place
 - > * when the story takes place
 - > * who is present when the story begins
 - > * what is happening when the story begins

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- Languages have different ways of marking background information and storyline information.
- You (the translator) need to know the order of the events in the Bible, which information is background information, and which is storyline information.
- You will need to translate the story in a way that marks the background information in a way that your own readers will understand the order of events, which information is background information, and which is storyline information.

Examples From the Bible

Hagar gave birth to Abram's son, and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram **was 86 years old** when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram. (Genesis 16:15-16 ULT)

The first sentence tells about two events. Hagar gave birth and Abraham named his son. The second sentence is background information about how old Abram was when those things happened.

And Jesus himself **was beginning about 30 years old**. He **was the son** (as it was assumed) of Joseph, of Heli, (Luke 3:23 ULT)

The verses before this tell about when Jesus was baptized. This sentence introduces background information about Jesus' age and ancestors. The story resumes in chapter 4 where it tells about Jesus going to the wilderness.

Then **it happened on a Sabbath** that he **was going through the grain fields**, and his disciples **were picking and eating the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands**. But some of the Pharisees said ... (Luke 6:1-2a ULT)

These verses give the setting of the story. The events took place in a grain field on the Sabbath day. Jesus, his disciples, and some Pharisees were there, and Jesus' disciples were picking heads of grain and eating them. The main action in the story starts with the phrase, "But some of the Pharisees said"

Translation Strategies

To keep translations clear and natural you will need to study how people tell stories in your language. Observe how your language marks background information. You may need to write down some stories in order to study this. Observe what kinds of verbs your language uses for background information and what kinds of words or other markers signal that something is background information. Do these same things when you translate, so that your translation is clear and natural and people can understand it easily.

- (1) Use your language's way of showing that certain information is background information.
- (2) Reorder the information so that earlier events are mentioned first. (This is not always possible when the background information is very long.)

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Use your language's way of showing that certain information is background information. The examples below explain how this was done in the ULT English translations.

And Jesus himself **was** beginning about 30 years old. He **was** the son (as it was assumed) of Joseph, of Heli. (Luke 3:23 ULT)

As here, English sometimes uses the word "and" to show that there is some kind of change in the story. The verb "was" shows that it is background information.

Therefore, also exhorting many other things, he preached the good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, having been rebuked by him concerning Herodias, the wife of his brother, and **concerning all the evil things that Herod had done**, added even this to them all: He locked John up in prison. (Luke 3:18-20 ULT)

The bolded phrase happened before John rebuked Herod. In English, the helping verb "had" in "had done" shows that Herod did those things before John rebuked him.

- (2) Reorder the information so that earlier events are mentioned first.

Hagar gave birth to Abram's son, and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.
Abram was 86 years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram. (Genesis 16:16 ULT)

"When Abram was 86 years old, Hagar gave birth to his son, and Abram named his son Ishmael."

Therefore, also exhorting many other things, he preached the good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, having been rebuked by him concerning Herodias, the wife of his brother, and **concerning all the evil things that Herod had done,** added even this to them all: He locked John up in prison. (Luke 3:18-20 ULT)

The translation below reorders John's rebuke and Herod's actions.

"Now Herod the tetrarch married his brother's wife, Herodias, and **he did many other evil things,** so John rebuked him. But then Herod did another very evil thing. He had John locked up in prison."

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Connecting Words and Phrases](#)

[Introduction of a New Event](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:1](#); [1:20](#); [2:16](#); [2:23](#); [3:1](#); [6:14](#); [7:7](#); [9:31](#); [13:17](#); [16:34](#))

Biblical Distance

Description

The following terms are the most common measures for distance or length that were originally used in the Bible. Most of these are based on the sizes of the hand and forearm.

- The **handbreadth** was the width of the palm of a man’s hand.
- The **span** or handspan was the width of a man’s hand with the fingers spread out.
- The **cubit** was the length of a man’s forearm, from the elbow to the tip of the longest finger.
- The **“long” cubit** is used only in Ezekiel 40-48. It is the length of a normal cubit plus a span.
- The **stadium** (plural, **stadia**) referred to a certain footrace that was about 185 meters in length. Some older English versions translated this word as “furlong,” which referred to the average length of a plowed field.

This page answers the question: *How can I translate the lengths and distances that are in the Bible?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/translate-decimal\]\]](#)
[Fractions](#)

The metric values in the table below are close but not exactly equal to the biblical measures. The biblical measures probably differed in exact length from time to time and place to place. The equivalents below are an attempt to give an average measurement.

Original Measure	Metric Measure
handbreadth	8 centimeters
span	23 centimeters
cubit	46 centimeters
“long” cubit	54 centimeters
stadia	185 meters

Translation Principles

The people in the Bible did not use modern measures such as meters, liters, and kilograms. Using the original measures can help readers know that the Bible really was written long ago in a time when people used those measures.

Using modern measures can help readers understand the text more easily.

Whatever measure you use, it would be good, if possible, to tell about the other kind of measure in the text or a footnote.

If you do not use the Biblical measures, try not to give the readers the idea that the measurements are exact. For example, if you translate one cubit as “.46 meters” or even as “46 centimeters,” readers might think that the measurement is exact. It would be better to say “half a meter,” “45 centimeters,” or “50 centimeters.”

Sometimes it can be helpful to use the word “about” to show that a measurement is not exact. For example, Luke 24:13 says that Emmaus was 60 stadia from Jerusalem. This can be translated as “about ten kilometers” from Jerusalem.

When God tells people how long something should be, and when people make things according to those lengths, do not use “about” in the translation. Otherwise it will give the impression that God did not care exactly how long something should be.

Translation Strategies

- (1) Use the measurements from the ULT. These are the same kinds of measurements that the original writers used. Spell them in a way that is similar to the way they sound or are spelled in the ULT. (See [Copy or Borrow Words](#).)
- (2) Use the metric measurements given in the UST. The translators of the UST have already figured how to represent the amounts in the metric system.
- (3) Use measurements that are already used in your language. In order to do this you would need to know how your measurements relate to the metric system and figure out each measurement.
- (4) Use the measurements from the ULT and include measurements that your people know in the text or a note.
- (5) Use measurements that your people know, and include the measurements from the ULT in the text or in a note.

Translation Strategies Applied

The strategies are all applied to Exodus 25:10 below.

They are to make an ark of acacia wood. Its length must be two and a half cubits; its width will be one cubit and a half; and its height will be one cubit and a half. (Exodus 25:10 ULT)

- (1) Use the measurements given in the ULT. These are the same kinds of measurements that the original writers used. Spell them in a way that is similar to the way they sound or are spelled in the ULT. (See [Copy or Borrow Words](#).)

“They are to make an ark of acacia wood. Its length must be **two and a half kubits**; its width will be **one kubit and a half**; and its height will be **one kubit and a half**.”

- (2) Use the metric measurements given in the UST. The translators of the UST have already figured how to represent the amounts in the metric system.

“They are to make an ark of acacia wood. Its length must be **one meter**; its width will be **two thirds of a meter**; and its height will be **two thirds of a meter**.”

- (3) Use measurements that are already used in your language. In order to do this you would need to know how your measurements relate to the metric system and figure out each measurement. For example, if you measure things using the standard meter length, you could translate it as below.

“They are to make an ark of acacia wood. Its length must be **one meter**; its width will be **two thirds of a meter**; and its height will be **two thirds of a meter**.”

- (4) Use the measurements from the ULT and include measurements that your people know in the text or a note. The following shows both measurements in the text.

“They are to make an ark of acacia wood. Its length must be **two and a half cubits (one meter)**; its width will be **one cubit and a half (two thirds of a meter)**; and its height will be **one cubit and a half (two thirds of a meter)**.”

- (5) Use measurements that your people know, and include the measurements from the ULT in the text or in a note. The following shows the ULT measurements in notes.

“They are to make an ark of acacia wood. Its length must be **one meter**; ¹ its width will be **two thirds of a meter**; ² and its height will be **two thirds of a meter**.”

The footnotes would look like:

“They are to make an ark of acacia wood. Its length must be **one meter**; ¹ its width will be **two thirds of a meter**; ² and its height will be **two thirds of a meter**.”

The footnotes would look like:

[¹] two and a half cubits
[²] one cubit and a half

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:10](#); [25:17](#); [25:23](#); [25:25](#); [26:2](#); [26:8](#); [26:13](#); [26:16](#); [27:1](#); [27:9](#); [27:11](#); [27:12](#); [27:13](#); [27:14](#); [27:15](#); [27:16](#); [27:18](#); [28:16](#); [30:2](#); [38:18](#))

Biblical Money

Description

This page answers the question: *How can I translate the values of money in the Bible?*

In early Old Testament times, people weighed their metals, such as silver and gold, and would pay a certain weight of that metal in order to buy things. Later, people started to make coins that each contained a standard amount of a certain metal. The daric is one such coin. In New Testament times, people used silver and copper coins.

The two tables below show some of the most well-known units of money found in the Old Testament (OT) and New Testament (NT). The table for Old Testament units shows what kind of metal was used and how much it weighed. The table for New Testament units shows what kind of metal was used and how much it was worth in terms of a day's wage.

Unit in OT	Metal	Weight
daric	gold coin	8.4 grams
shekel	various metals	11 grams
talent	various metals	33 kilograms

Unit in NT	Metal	Day's Wage
denarius/denarii	silver coin	1 day
drachma	silver coin	1 day
mite	copper coin	1/64 day
shekel	silver coin	4 days
talent	silver	6,000 days

Translation Principle

Do not use modern money values since these change from year to year. Using them will cause the Bible translation to become outdated and inaccurate.

Translation Strategies

The value of most money in the Old Testament was based on its weight. So when translating these weights in the Old Testament, see [Biblical Weight](#). The strategies below are for translating the value of money in the New Testament.

- (1) Use the Bible term and spell it in a way that is similar to the way it sounds. (See [Copy or Borrow Words](#).)
- (2) Describe the value of the money in terms of what kind of metal it was made of and how many coins were used.
- (3) Describe the value of the money in terms of what people in Bible times could earn in one day of work.
- (4) Use the biblical term and give the equivalent amount in the text or a footnote.

(5) Use the biblical term and explain it in a footnote.

Translation Strategies Applied

The translations strategies are all applied to Luke 7:41 below.

█ The one owed 500 denarii, and the other, 50. (Luke 7:41b ULT)

Use the Bible term and spell it in a way that is similar to the way it sounds. (See [Copy or Borrow Words](#).)

█ "The one owed **500 denali**, and the other, **50**."

Describe the value of the money in terms of what kind of metal it was made of and how many pieces or coins were used.

█ "The one owed **500 silver coins**, and the other, **50**."

(3) Describe the value of the money in terms of what people in Bible times could earn in one day of work.

█ "The one owed **500 days' wages**, and the other, **50**."

(4) Use the Bible term and give the equivalent amount in the text or a footnote.

█ "The one owed **500 denarii** 1, and the other owed **50 denarii**. 2"

The footnotes would look like:

█ [1] 500 days' wages [2] 50 days' wages

(5) Use the Bible term and explain it in a footnote.

█ "The one owed **500 denarii**,¹ and the other, **50**." (Luke 7:41 ULT)

█ ^[1] A denarius was the amount of silver that people could earn in one day of work.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Copy or Borrow Words](#)

[Translate Unknowns](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 21:32](#); [30:13](#); [30:15](#))

Biblical Volume

Description

The following terms are the most common units of volume used in the Bible to state how much a certain container could hold. The containers and measurements are given for both liquids (such as wine) and dry solids (such as grain). The metric values are not exactly equal to the biblical measures. The biblical measures probably differed in exact amount from time to time and place to place. The equivalents below are an attempt to give an average measurement.

This page answers the question: *How can I translate the measures of volume that are in the Bible?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/translate-decimal\]\]](#)

Type	Original Measure	Liters
Dry	omer	2 liters
Dry	ephah	22 liters
Dry	homer	220 liters
Dry	cor	220 liters
Dry	seah	7.7 liters
Dry	lethek	114.8 liters
Liquid	metrete	40 liters
Liquid	bath	22 liters
Liquid	hin	3.7 liters
Liquid	kab	1.23 liters
Liquid	log	0.31 liters

Translation Principles

- The people in the Bible did not use modern measures such as meters, liters, and kilograms. Using the original measures can help readers know that the Bible really was written long ago in a time when people used those measures.
- Using modern measures can help readers understand the text more easily.
- Whatever measures you use, it would be good, if possible, to tell about the other kinds of measures in the text or a footnote.
- If you do not use the biblical measures, try not to give the readers the idea that the measurements are exact. For example, if you translate one hin as “3.7 liters,” readers might think that the measurement is exactly 3.7 liters, not 3.6 or 3.8. It would be better to use a more approximate measure such as “three and a half liters” or “four liters.”
- When God tells people how much of something to use, and when people use those amounts in obedience to him, do not say “about” in the translation. Otherwise it will give the impression that God did not care exactly how much they used.

When the unit of measure is stated

Translation Strategies

- (1) Use the measurements from the ULT. These are the same kinds of measurements that the original writers used. Spell them in a way that is similar to the way they sound or are spelled in the ULT. (See [Copy or Borrow Words](#).)
- (2) Use the metric measurements given in the UST. The translators of the UST have already figured how to represent the amounts in the metric system.
- (3) Use measurements that are already used in your language. In order to do this you would need to know how your measurements relate to the metric system and figure out each measurement.
- (4) Use the measurements from the ULT and include measurements that your people know in the text or a note.
- (5) Use measurements that your people know, and include the measurements from the ULT in the text or in a note.

Translation Strategies Applied

The strategies are all applied to Isaiah 5:10 below.

For a ten-yoke vineyard will yield only one bath, and one homer of seed will yield only an ephah. (Isaiah 5:10 ULT)

- (1) Use the measurements from the ULT. These are the same kinds of measurements that the original writers used. Spell them in a way that is similar to the way they sound or are spelled in the ULT. (See [Copy or Borrow Words](#).)

“For a ten-yoke vineyard will yield only one **bat**, and one **homer** of seed will yield only an **efa**.”

- (2) Use the measurements given in the UST. Usually they are metric measurements. The translators of the UST have already figured how to represent the amounts in the metric system.

“For a ten-yoke vineyard will yield only **22 liters** and **220 liters** of seed will yield only **22 liters**.”

“For a ten-yoke vineyard will yield only **22**, and **ten baskets** of seed will yield only **one basket**.”

- (3) Use measurements that are already used in your language. In order to do this you would need to know how your measurements relate to the metric system and figure out each measurement.

“For a ten-yoke vineyard will yield only **six gallons**, and **six and a half bushels** of seed will yield only **20 quarts**.”

- (4) Use the measurements from the ULT and include measurements that your people know in the text or a note. The following shows both measurements in the text.

“For a ten-yoke vineyard will yield only **one bath (six gallons)**, and **one homer (six and a half bushels)** of seed will yield only **an ephah (20 quarts)**.”

- (5) Use measurements that your people know, and include the measurements from the ULT in the text or in a note. The following shows the ULT measurements in footnotes.

“For a ten-yoke vineyard will yield only 22 liters¹, and 220 liters² of seed will yield only 22 liters³.”

The footnotes would look like:

[1] one bath
[2] one homer
[3] one ephah

When the unit of measure is implied

Sometimes the Hebrew does not specify a particular unit of volume but only uses a number. In these cases, many English versions, including the ULT and UST, add the word “measure.”

When you came to a heap of **20 measures** of grain, there were only **ten**, and when you came to the wine vat to draw out **50 measures** of wine, there were only 20. (Haggai 2:16 ULT)

Translation Strategies

- (1) Translate literally by using the number without a unit.
- (2) Use a generic word like “measure” or “quantity” or “amount.”
- (3) Use the name of an appropriate container, such as “basket” for grain or “jar” for wine.
- (4) Use a unit of measure that you are already using in your translation.

Translation Strategies Applied

The strategies are all applied to Haggai 2:16 below.

When you came to a heap of **20 measures** of grain, there were only **ten**, and when you came to the wine vat to draw out **fifty measures** of wine, there were only **20**. (Haggai 2:16 ULT)

- (1) Translate literally by using the number without a unit.

When you came to a heap of **20** of grain, there were only **ten**, and when you came to the wine vat to draw out **50** of wine, there were only **20**.

- (2) Use a generic word like “measure” or “quantity” or “amount.”

When you came to a heap of **20 amounts** of grain, there were only **ten**, and when you came to the wine vat to draw out **fifty amounts** of wine, there were only **20**.

- (3) Use the name of an appropriate container, such as “basket” for grain or “jar” for wine.

When you came to a heap of **20 baskets** of grain, there were only **ten**, and when you came to the wine vat to draw out **50 jars** of wine, there were only **20**.

- (4) Use a unit of measure that you are already using in your translation.

When you came to a heap for **20 liters** of grain, there were only **ten liters**, and when you came to the wine vat to draw out **50 liters** of wine, there were only **20 liters**.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Fractions](#)

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-explicitinfo]]

(Go back to: [Exodus 16:16](#); [16:36](#); [29:40](#); [30:24](#))

Biblical Weight

Description

This page answers the question: *How can I translate the values of weight in the Bible?*

The following terms are the most common units of weight in the Bible. The term “shekel” means “weight,” and many other weights are described in terms of the shekel. Some of these weights were used for money. The metric values in the table below are not exactly equal to the biblical measures. The biblical measures differed in exact amount from time to time and place to place. The equivalents below are only an attempt to give an average measurement.

Original Measure	Shekels	Grams	Kilograms
shekel	1 shekel	11 grams	-
bekah	1/2 shekel	5.7 grams	-
pim	2/3 shekel	7.6 grams	-
gerah	1/20 shekel	0.57 grams	-
mina	50 shekels	550 grams	1/2 kilogram
talent	3,000 shekels	-	34 kilograms

Translation Principles

The people in the Bible did not use modern measures such as meters, liters, and kilograms. Using the original measures can help readers know that the Bible really was written long ago in a time when people used those measures.

Using modern measures can help readers understand the text more easily.

Whatever measure you use, it would be good, if possible, to tell about the other kind of measure in the text or a footnote.

If you do not use the biblical measures, try not to give the readers the idea that the measurements are exact. For example, if you translate one gerah as “.57 grams,” readers might think that the measurement is exact. It would be better to say “half a gram.”

Sometimes it can be helpful to use the word “about” to show that a measurement is not exact. For example, 2 Samuel 21:16 says that Goliath’s spear weighed 300 shekels. Instead of translating this as “3300 grams” or “3.3 kilograms,” it can be translated as “about three and one half kilograms.”

When God tells people how much something should weigh, and when people use those weights, do not say “about” in the translation. Otherwise, it will give the impression that God did not care exactly how much the thing should weigh.

Translation Strategies

(1) Use the measurements from the ULT. These are the same kinds of measurements that the original writers used. Spell them in a way that is similar to the way they sound or are spelled in the ULT. (See [Copy or Borrow Words](#).)

(2) Use the metric measurements given in the UST. The translators of the UST have already figured how to represent the amounts in the metric system.

(3) Use measurements that are already used in your language. In order to do this, you would need to know how your measurements relate to the metric system and figure out each measurement.

(4) Use the measurements from the ULT and include measurements that your people know in the text or a note.

(5) Use measurements that your people know, and include the measurements from the ULT in the text or in a note.

Translation Strategies Applied

The strategies are all applied to Exodus 38:29 below.

█ The bronze from the wave offering weighed **70 talents and 2,400 shekels**. (Exodus 38:29 ULT)

(1) Use the measurements from the ULT. These are the same kinds of measurements that the original writers used. Spell them in a way that is similar to the way they sound or are spelled in the ULT. (See [Copy or Borrow Words](#).)

█ "The bronze from the wave offering weighed **70 talentes and 2,400 sekeles**."

(2) Use the metric measurements given in the UST. The translators of the UST have already figured how to represent the amounts in the metric system.

█ "The bronze from the wave offering weighed **2,400 kilograms**."

(3) Use measurements that are already used in your language. In order to do this you would need to know how your measurements relate to the metric system and figure out each measurement.

█ "The bronze from the wave offering weighed **5,300 pounds**."

(4) Use the measurements from the ULT and include measurements that your people know in the text or a footnote. The following shows both measurements in the text.

█ "The bronze from the wave offering weighed **70 talents (2,380 kilograms) and 2,400 shekels (26.4 kilograms)**."

(5) Use measurements that your people know, and include the measurements from the ULT in the text or in a footnote. The following shows the ULT measurements in notes.

█ "The bronze from the offering weighed **70 talents and 2,400 shekels**. ¹"

The footnote would look like:

█ ^[1] This was a total of about 2,400 kilograms.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Fractions](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:39](#); [30:13](#); [30:24](#); [38:24](#); [38:25](#); [38:26](#); [38:27](#); [38:29](#))

Blessings

Description

Blessings are short sayings that people use to ask God to do something good for another person. In the Bible, the person saying the blessing speaks or writes directly to the person who will receive the blessing. The person who says the blessing does not directly speak to God, but it is understood that God is the one who will do the good thing mentioned. It is also understood that God hears the blessing, whether he is mentioned by name or not.

This page answers the question: *What are blessings, and how can I translate them?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/writing-intro\]\]](#)

[Poetry](#)

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Each language has its own ways of saying blessings. There are many blessings in the Bible. They need to be translated in the way that people say blessings in your language, so that people recognize them as blessings and understand what one person wants God to do for another.

Examples From the Bible

In the Bible, people often said a blessing when they met someone or when they were leaving someone or sending someone off.

In the book of Ruth, when Boaz meets his workers in the fields, he greets them with a blessing:

Then behold, Boaz coming from Bethlehem! And he said to the reapers, “Yahweh be with you.” And they said to him, “May Yahweh bless you.” (Ruth 2:4 ULT)

Similarly, when Rebekah leaves her family, they say farewell with a blessing:

They blessed Rebekah, and said to her, “Our sister, may you be the mother of thousands of ten thousands, and may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them.” (Genesis 24:60 ULT)

In a similar way, the writers of letters in the New Testament often wrote a blessing at the beginning of their letters as well as at the end. Here are examples from the beginning and end of Paul’s second letter to Timothy:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. (2 Tim 1:2 ULT)
The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. (2 Tim 4:22 ULT)

Translation Strategies

Find out how people say blessings in your language. Collect a list of common blessings, noting the form of the verb, the use of certain words, and the words that are not used in a blessing but would normally be in a sentence. Also find out what differences there might be between blessings that people use when they are speaking to each other and when they are writing to each other.

If translating a blessing literally would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider doing that. If not, here are some options:

Add a verb if that is natural in your language.

Mention God as the subject of a blessing if that is natural in your language.

Translate the blessing in a form that is natural and clear in your language.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Add a verb if that is natural in your language.

▮ The Lord with your spirit. The grace with you. (2 Tim 4:22, literal from the Greek)

In the Greek of this verse, there is no verb 'be.' However, in blessings in English, it is natural to use a verb. The idea that the 'grace' from God will be or remain with the person is implied in Greek.

The Lord **be** with your spirit. Grace **be** with you. (2 Tim 4:22 ULT)

(2) Mention God as the subject of a blessing if that is natural in your language.

If people expect a blessing to refer to God in your language, you might have to provide 'God' as the subject or as the source of the blessing. In Greek and Hebrew, usually God is not explicitly mentioned in the blessing, but it is implied that God is the one acting to show his kindness to the person being addressed.

▮ The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. (2 Tim 4:22 ULT)

The Lord be with your spirit. **May God give** grace to you.

▮ They blessed Rebekah, and said to her, "Our sister, may you be the mother of thousands of ten thousands, and may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them." (Genesis 24:60 ULT)

They blessed Rebekah, and said to her, "Our sister, may **God grant that** you be the mother of thousands of ten thousands, and may **God empower** your descendants **to** possess the gate of those who hate them."

(3) Translate the blessing in a form that is natural and clear in your language.

Here are some ideas for ways that people might say a blessing in their language.

▮ The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. (2 Tim 4:22 ULT)

May the Lord be with your spirit. May God cause his grace to be with you.

May you have God's presence with you. May you experience grace from God.

▮ "Our sister, may you be the mother of thousands of ten thousands, and may your descendants possess the gate of those who hate them." (Genesis 24:60 ULT)

"Our sister, we pray to God that you may be the mother of thousands of ten thousands, and appeal to him that your descendants may possess the gate of those who hate them."

"Our sister, by God's power you will be the mother of thousands of ten thousands, and your descendants will possess the gate of those who hate them."

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:18](#))

Collective Nouns

Description

This page answers the question: *What are collective nouns and how can I translate them?*

A collective noun is a singular noun that refers to a group of something. Examples: a **family**, **clan**, or **tribe** is a group of people who are related to each other; a **flock** is a group of birds or sheep; a **fleet** is a group of ships; and an **army** is a group of soldiers.

Many collective nouns are used exclusively as a singular replacement for a group as in the examples above. Frequently in the Bible the name of an ancestor is used, through a process of metonymy, as a collective noun referencing the group of his descendants. In the Bible, sometimes the singular noun will take a singular verb form, other times it will take a plural verb form. This may depend on how the author is thinking about the group, or whether the action is being done as a group or as individuals.

Reason This is a Translation Issue

There are several issues that require care when translating collective nouns. Further care is needed because the language you are translating into may not use collective nouns in the same way as the language you are translating from. Issues include:

The source language may have a collective noun for a group that the target language does not and vice-versa. You may have to translate a collective noun with a plural noun in your language, or you may need to translate a plural noun with a collective noun in your language.

Subject-verb agreement. Different languages or dialects may have different rules about using singular or plural verbs with collective nouns.

Examples (from Wikipedia):

- a singular noun with a singular verb: The team *is* in the dressing room.
- a singular noun with a plural verb which is correct in British, but not American, English: The team *are* fighting among themselves. The team *have* finished the project.

Pronoun agreement. Similar to the previous, care needs to be taken to use the correct pronoun plurality and possibly gender or noun class to agree with the number/gender/class of the noun used. See the biblical examples below.

Clarity of referent. Especially if there is a mismatch in your translation between the verb and noun or pronoun concerning any of the factors above, readers may be confused about who or what is being referenced.

Examples from the Bible

And Joab and all the **army** which was with him arrived (2 Samuel 3:23a ULT)

The word in bold is written in singular form in both Hebrew and English, but it refers to a group of warriors that fight together.

and though the **flock** is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls. (Habakkuk 3:17b ULT)

The word in bold is singular and refers to a group of sheep.

And he went out again beside the sea, and all the **crowd** was coming to him, and he was teaching **them**. (Mark 2:13 ULT)

Note in this example that the noun is singular but the pronoun is plural. This may or may not be allowed or natural in your language.

Do not let **your heart** be troubled. **You** believe in God; believe also in me. (John 14:1 ULT)

In this verse, the words translated “your” and “you” are plural, referring to many people. The word “heart” is singular in form, but it refers to all of their hearts as a group.

And he shall take the **hair** of the head of his separation. And he shall put **it** on the fire that is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings. (Num 6:18b ULT)

The word **hair** is singular, but it refers to many hairs, not just one.

And Pharaoh said, “Who is Yahweh that I should listen to his voice to let **Israel** go? I do not know Yahweh; and moreover, I will not let **Israel** go.” (Exodus 5:2 ULT)

Here, “Israel” is singular, but means “the Israelites” by metonymy.

Translation Strategies

If your language has a collective (singular) noun that refers to the same group as referenced by the collective noun in the source text, then translate the word using that term. If not, here are some strategies to consider:

- (1) Translate the collective noun with a plural noun.
- (2) Add a plural word to the collective noun so that you can use a plural verb and pronouns.
- (3) Use a phrase to describe the group that the collective noun references. A useful strategy here can be to use a general collective noun that refers to a group of people or things.
- (4) If your language uses a collective noun for something that is a plural noun in the source language, you can translate the plural noun as a collective noun and, if necessary, change the form of the verb and any pronouns so that they agree with the singular noun.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Translate the collective noun with a plural noun.

And Pharaoh said, “Who is Yahweh that I should listen to his voice to let **Israel** go? I do not know Yahweh; and moreover, I will not let **Israel** go.” (Exodus 5:2 ULT)

And Pharaoh said, “Who is Yahweh that I should listen to his voice to let **the Israelites** go? I do not know Yahweh; and moreover, I will not let **the Israelites** go.”

And he shall take the **hair** of the head of his separation. And he shall put **it** on the fire that is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings. (Num 6:18b ULT)

And he shall take the **hairs** of the head of his separation. And he shall put **them** on the fire that is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings.

- (2) Add a plural word to the collective noun so that you can use a plural verb and pronouns.

And Joab and all the **army** which was with him arrived (2 Samuel 3:23a ULT)

And Joab and all the **army men who were** with him arrived

And he went out again beside the sea, and all the **crowd** was coming to him, and he was teaching **them**. (Mark 2:13 ULT)

And he went out again beside the sea, and all the **people of the crowd were** coming to him, and he was teaching **them**.

(3) Use a phrase to describe the group that the collective noun references. A useful strategy here can be to use a general collective noun that refers to a group of people or things.

and though the **flock** is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls. (Habakkuk 3:17b ULT)

and though the **group of sheep** is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls.

And Pharaoh said, "Who is Yahweh that I should listen to his voice to let **Israel** go? I do not know Yahweh; and moreover, I will not let **Israel** go." (Exodus 5:2 ULT)

And Pharaoh said, "Who is Yahweh that I should listen to his voice to let **the people of Israel** go? I do not know Yahweh; and moreover, I will not let **the people of Israel** go."

(4) If your language uses a collective noun for something that is a plural noun in the source language, you can translate the plural noun as a collective noun and, if necessary, change the form of the verb and any pronouns so that they agree with the singular noun.

Now this John had his clothing from the **hairs** of a camel and a leather belt around his waist (Matthew 3:4a ULT)

Now this John had his clothing from the **hair** of a camel and a leather belt around his waist

You shall not make for yourself a carved figure nor any likeness that {is} in **the heavens** above, or that {is} in the earth beneath, or that {is} in **the waters** under the earth. (Deuteronomy 5:8 ULT)

You shall not make for yourself a carved figure nor any likeness that is in **heaven** above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in **the water** under the earth.

(Go back to: Exodus 1:10; 3:7; 3:8; 3:18; 4:22; 5:2; 8:6; 8:21; 8:22; 9:3; 9:4; 9:7; 9:8; 9:10; 10:4; 10:5; 10:12; 10:13; 10:14; 10:15; 10:19; 12:15; 14:5; 14:19; 14:20; 14:30; 14:31; 15:22; 17:8; 22:5; 23:28; 32:9; 32:25; 34:12; 34:13; 34:15)

Connect — Background Information

Time Relationship

Some connectors establish time relationships between two phrases, clauses, sentences, or chunks of text.

This page answers the question: *How can I translate clauses that give background information?*

Background Clause

Description

A background clause is one that describes something that is ongoing. Then, in the same sentence, another clause indicates an event that begins to happen during that time. These events are also simultaneous events, but they have the further relationship of background event and main event because the event that is already happening serves as the background for the other event, the one that is in focus. The background event simply provides the time frame or other context for the main event or events.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Languages indicate a shift in time in different ways. You (the translator) need to understand how these shifts in time are indicated in the original languages in order to communicate them clearly in your own language. Background clauses often indicate a time that began long before the event that is in focus. Translators need to understand how both the source language and the target language communicate background events. Some English words that indicate background events are “now,” “when,” “while,” and “during.” Those words can also indicate simultaneous events. To tell the difference, ask yourself if all of the events seem to be equal in importance and started at about the same time. If so, they are probably simultaneous events. But if an event(s) is ongoing and another event(s) just started, then the ongoing event(s) is probably background to the other event(s). Some common phrases that indicate background events are “in those days” and “at that time.”

Examples From OBS and the Bible

When Solomon was old, he also worshiped their gods. (OBS Story 18 Frame 3)

Solomon began to worship foreign gods at a time when he was old. Being old is the background event. Worshiping other gods is the main event.

And his parents went **every year** to Jerusalem to the Feast of the Passover. And when he was 12 years old, they went up according to the custom of the feast. (Luke 2:41-42 ULT)

The first event—going to Jerusalem—is ongoing and started long ago. We know this because of the words “every year.” Going to Jerusalem is the background event. Then an event begins that started during the time “when he was twelve years old.” So the main event is the specific time Jesus and his family traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover festival **when he was twelve years old**.

And it came about that, **while** they were there, the days were fulfilled for her to give birth. (Luke 2:6 ULT)

Being in Bethlehem is the background event. The birth of the baby is the main event.

And in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—**while** Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, **during** the high priesthood of

Annas and Caiaphas—the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.
(Luke 3:1-2 ULT)

This example begins with five background clauses (marked by commas), signalled as background by the words “while” and “during.” Then the main event happens: “the word of God came to John.”

Translation Strategies

If the way that the Background Clauses are marked is also clear in your language, then translate the Background Clauses as they are.

(1) If the connecting word does not make it clear that what follows is a Background Clause, use a connecting word that communicates this more clearly.

(2) If your language marks Background Clauses in a different way than using connecting words (such as by using different verb forms), then use that way.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

And in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—**while** Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, **during** the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas—the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.
(Luke 3:1-2 ULT)

(1) If the connecting word does not make it clear that what follows is a background clause, use a connecting word that communicates this more clearly.

It happened during the time that Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, **and during the time that** Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, **and during the time that** his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, **and during the time that** Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, **and also during the time that** Annas and Caiaphas were high priests—**that** the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

(2) If your language marks background clauses in a different way than using connecting words, such as with different verb forms, then use that way.

Pontius Pilate **was governing** Judea, and Herod **was ruling over** Galilee, and his brother Philip **was ruling over** the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias **was ruling over** Abilene, and Annas and Caiaphas **were being** high priests—the word of God **came** to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

Example of Differences in Time Relationship Connecting Words:

Category	Example
Background setting	Yahweh's word was rare in those days ;
Background repeated	there was no frequent prophetic vision.
Introduction of main event	At that time, when Eli
Background	whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see well,
Simultaneous background	was lying down in his own bed.
Simultaneous background	The lamp of God had not yet gone out,
Simultaneous background	and Samuel was lying down to sleep in the temple of Yahweh,
Simultaneous background	where the ark of God was.
Main event	Yahweh called to Samuel,
Sequential event	who said, "Here I am." (1 Sam 3:1-4 ULT)

In the above example, the first two lines talk about a condition that was going on for a long time. This is the general, long-term background. We know this from the phrase "in those days." After the introduction of the main event ("At that time,"), there are several lines of simultaneous background. The first one is introduced by "when," and then three more follow, with the last connected by "and." The background clause introduced by "where" explains a little more about the background clause before it. Then the main event happens, followed by more events. Translators will need to think about the best way to show these relationships in their language.

(Go back to: [Exodus 33:7; 34:34](#))

Connect — Contrary to Fact Conditions

Conditional Relationships

This page answers the question: *How can I translate contrary-to-fact conditions?*

Conditional connectors connect two clauses to indicate that one of them will happen when the other one happens. In English, the most common way to connect conditional clauses is with the words, “if ... then.” Often, however, the word “then” is not stated.

Contrary-to-Fact Conditions

Description

A Contrary-to-Fact Condition is a condition that sounds hypothetical, but the speaker is already certain that it is NOT true.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Usually there are no special words that indicate a Contrary-to-Fact Condition. The writer assumes that the reader knows that it is NOT a true condition. For this reason it often requires knowledge of implied information to know that it is not true. If this kind of condition is difficult for translators to communicate, they may want to consider using the same strategies that they used for [Rhetorical Questions](#) or [Implied Information](#).

Examples From OBS and the Bible

But **if Baal is God**, worship him! (Story 19 Frame 6 OBS)

Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you keep changing your mind? If Yahweh is God, follow him. But **if Baal is God**, then follow him.” Yet the people did not answer him a word. (1 Kings 18:21 ULT)

Baal is not God. Elijah is not suggesting that Baal might be God, and he does not want the people to follow Baal. But Elijah used a conditional statement to show them that what they were doing was wrong. In the example above, we see two conditions that have the same construction. The first one, “If Yahweh is God,” is a Factual Condition because Elijah is certain that it is true. The second one, “if Baal is God,” is a Contrary-to-Fact Condition because Elijah is certain that it is not true. You will need to consider if people would say both of these in the same way in your language or if they would say them in different ways.

But his wife replied to him, “**If Yahweh had desired to kill us**, he would not have taken from our hand the whole burnt offering and the offering. He would not have shown us all these things, and at this time would he have not allowed us to hear about this.” (Judges 13:23 ULT)

Manoah’s wife thinks that the second part of her conditional statement is not true, therefore the first part is also not true. God received their burnt offering; therefore, He does not want to kill them.

>

“**If only we had died** by Yahweh’s hand in the land of Egypt, sitting by a pot of meat and eating bread to the full.” (Exodus 16b:3 ULT)

Of course the people speaking here did not die in Egypt, and so this is a Contrary-to-Fact condition that is used to express a wish.

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! **If the mighty deeds had been done** in Tyre and Sidon which were done in you, **they would have repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes.” (Matthew 11:21 ULT)

The English reader knows that these last two examples are Contrary-to-Fact conditions because of the past-tense verbs used in the first part (they are not things that might happen). The last example also has a second part that uses “would have.” These words also signal something that did not happen.

Translation Strategies

If Contrary-to-Fact conditions are clear in your language, then use them as they are.

- (1) If the condition leads the reader to think that the speaker believes something that is false, then restate the condition as something that others believe.
- (2) If the condition leads the reader to think that the speaker is suggesting that the first part is true, then restate it as a statement that it is not true.
- (3) If the condition is expressing something that did not happen but the speaker wanted it to happen, restate it as a wish.
- (4) If the condition is expressing something that did not happen, restate it as a negative statement.
- (5) Often Factual and Contrary-to-Fact conditions are used to make reasoned arguments for a change in behavior. If translators are struggling to know the best way to translate them, it could be helpful to discuss how this is done in their language community. If someone is trying to convince people to change their behavior, how do they do that? It may be possible to adapt similar strategies when translating these conditions.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) If the condition leads the reader to think that the speaker believes something that is false, then restate the condition as something that others believe.

But **if Baal is God**, worship him! (Story 19 Frame 6 OBS)

If you believe that Baal is God, then worship him!

- (2) If the condition leads the reader to think that the speaker is suggesting that the first part is true, then restate it as a statement that it is not true.

If Baal is not God, then you should not worship him!

But his wife replied to him, “**If Yahweh had desired to kill us**, he would not have taken from our hand the whole burnt offering and the offering. He would not have shown us all these things, and at this time would he have not allowed us to hear about this.” (Judges 13:23 ULT)

“**Yahweh does not want to kill us**, or he would not have received the burnt offering and the offering we gave him.”

- (3) If the condition is expressing something that did not happen but the speaker wanted it to happen, restate it as a wish.

“**If only we had died** by Yahweh’s hand in the land of Egypt, sitting by a pot of meat and eating bread to the full.” (Exodus 16b:3 ULT)

“**I wish we had died** by Yahweh’s hand in the land of Egypt...”

(4) If the condition is expressing something that did not happen, restate it as a negative statement.

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! **If the mighty deeds had been done** in Tyre and Sidon which were done in you, **they would have repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes.” (Matthew 11:21 ULT)

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! The mighty deeds which were done in you **were not done** in Tyre and Sidon. But **if they had been done there, those people would have repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”

(5) Often Factual and Contrary-to-Fact Conditions are used to make reasoned arguments for a change in behavior. If translators are struggling to know the best way to translate them, it could be helpful to discuss how this is done in their language community. If someone is trying to convince people to change their behavior, how do they do that? It may be possible to adapt similar strategies when translating these conditions.

But **if Baal is God**, worship him! (Story 19 Frame 6 OBS)

Is Baal the one who is truly God? Should you worship him?

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! **If the mighty deeds had been done** in Tyre and Sidon which were done in you, **they would have repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes.” (Matthew 11:21 ULT)

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! You think that you are better than Tyre and Sidon, but you are not! **They would have repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes at seeing the mighty deeds that you have seen! **You should be like them!**”

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:30](#))

Connect — Contrast Relationship

Logical Relationships

Some connectors establish logical relationships between two phrases, clauses, sentences, or chunks of text.

This page answers the question: *How can I translate a contrast relationship?*

Contrast Relationship

Description

A contrast relationship is a logical relationship in which one event or item is in contrast or opposition to another.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

In Scripture, many events did not happen as the people involved intended or expected them to happen. Sometimes people acted in ways that were not expected, whether good or bad. Often it was God at work, changing the events. These events were often pivotal. It is important that translators understand and communicate these contrasts. In English, contrast relationships are often indicated by the words “but,” “although,” “even though,” “though,” “yet,” or “however.”

Examples From OBS and the Bible

You tried to do evil when you sold me as a slave, **but** God used the evil for good! (Story 8 Frame 12 OBS)

Joseph’s brothers’ evil plan to sell Joseph is contrasted with God’s good plan to save many people. The word “but” marks the contrast.

For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? **Yet** I am among you as one who serves. (Luke 22:27 ULT)

Jesus contrasts the proud way that human leaders behave with the humble way that he behaves. The contrast is marked by the word “yet.”

The hill country will also be yours. **Though** it is a forest, you will clear it and it will become yours to its farthest borders, for you will drive out the Canaanites, even **though** they have chariots of iron, and even **though** they are strong. (Joshua 17:18 ULT)

It was unexpected that the Israelites, who had been slaves in Egypt, would be able to conquer and lay claim to the promised land.

Translation Strategies

If your language uses contrast relationships in the same way as in the text, then use them as they are.

(1) If the contrast relationship between the clauses is not clear, then use a connecting word or phrase that is more specific or more clear.

(2) If it is more clear in your language to mark the other clause of the contrast relationship, then use a connecting word on the other clause.

(3) If your language shows a contrast relationship in a different way, then use that way.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) If the contrast relationship between the clauses is not clear, then use a connecting word or phrase that is more specific or more clear.

For who is greater, the one who reclines at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? **Yet** I am among you as one who serves. (Luke 22:27 ULT)

For who is greater, the one who reclines at table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? **Unlike that person**, I am among you as one who serves.

(2) If it is more clear in your language to mark the other clause of the contrast relationship, then use a connecting word on the other clause.

The hill country will also be yours. **Though** it is a forest, you will clear it and it will become yours to its farthest borders, for you will drive out the Canaanites, even **though** they have chariots of iron, and even **though** they are strong. (Joshua 17:18 ULT)

The hill country will also be yours. It is a forest, **but** you will clear it and it will become yours to its farthest borders. They have chariots of iron, and they are strong, **but** you will drive out the Canaanites.

(3) If your language shows a contrast relationship in a different way, then use that way.

{David} found favor in the sight of God, and he asked if he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. **However**, Solomon built the house for him. **But** the Most High does not live in houses made with hands. (Acts 7:46-48a ULT)

[David] found favor in the sight of God, and he asked if he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. **But** it was, Solomon, **not David**, who built the house for God. **Even though Solomon built him a house**, the Most High does not live in houses made with hands.

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:12](#); [1:17](#); [2:17](#); [3:2](#); [4:21](#); [5:2](#); [5:10](#); [5:11](#); [7:12](#); [13:17](#); [24:11](#); [33:23](#); [34:13](#))

Connect — Goal (Purpose) Relationship

Logical Relationships

Some connectors establish logical relationships between two phrases, clauses, sentences, or chunks of text.

This page answers the question: *How can I translate a goal (purpose) relationship?*

Goal (or Purpose) Relationship

Description

A Goal Relationship is a logical relationship in which the second event is the purpose or goal of the first event. In order for something to be a goal relationship, someone must do the first event with the intention that it will cause the second event.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

In Scripture, the goal or purpose may be stated either first or second. But in some languages, the goal or purpose must always occur in the same position (either first or second) in order for that logical relationship to be understood. You (the translator) need to understand the relationship between the two parts and communicate those accurately in your language. This may require changing the order of the two events. It may also require specific words to indicate that one is the goal or purpose of the other. Words commonly used to indicate a goal relationship in English are “in order to,” “in order that” or “so that.” It is important that the translator recognize the words that signal a goal relationship and translate that relationship in a natural way.

Examples From OBS and the Bible

She became angry and falsely accused Joseph **so that he was arrested and sent to prison.**
(Story 8 Frame 5 OBS)

The goal or purpose of the woman’s false accusation was to get Joseph arrested and sent to prison.

Meanwhile Gideon, his son, was threshing out wheat at the winepress **in order to hide from the presence of Midian.** (Judges 6:11b ULT)

Here the prepositional phrase begins with “in order to.”

Now if I have found favor in your eyes, show me your ways **so that I may know you and continue to find favor in your eyes.** Remember that this nation is your people. (Exodus 33:13 ULT)

Moses wants God to show him God’s ways for the goal or purpose of Moses knowing God and continuing to find favor with God.

Even be sure to pull some out from the bundles for her and leave it **for her to glean,** and do not rebuke her! (Ruth 2:16 ULT)

The goal or purpose of Boaz instructing the men to pull out the grain from their bundles and leave it was for Ruth to gather (glean) it.

The shepherds said to each other, “Let us indeed go over as far as Bethlehem, **and let us see this thing that has happened,** which the Lord has made known to us.” (Luke 2:15 ULT)

The purpose of going to Bethlehem was to see the thing that had happened. Here the purpose is not marked and might be misunderstood.

“... if you want **to enter into life**, keep the commandments.” (Matthew 19:17b ULT)

The goal of keeping the commandments is to enter into life.

Do not turn from it to the right or to the left **so that you may be wise** in everything in which you walk. (Joshua 1:7c ULT)

The purpose of not turning away from the instructions that Moses gave to the Israelites was so that they would be wise.

But when the vine growers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him **and take over his inheritance**.’ So they took him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. (Matt 21:38-39 ULT)

The purpose of the vine growers killing the heir was so they could take his inheritance. They state both events as a plan, joining them only with “and.” Then the word “so” marks the reporting of the first event, but the second event (the goal or purpose) is not stated.

Translation Strategies

If your language uses Goal or Purpose relationships in the same way as in the text, then use them as they are.

- (1) If the construction of the Goal statement is unclear, change it to one that is more clear.
- (2) If the order of the statements makes the Goal statement unclear or confusing for the reader, then change the order.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) If the construction of the goal statement is unclear, change it to one that is more clear.

“Even be sure to pull some out from the bundles for her and leave it **for her to glean**, and do not rebuke her!” (Ruth 2:16 ULT)

“Even be sure to pull some out from the bundles for her and leave it **so that she can glean it**, and do not rebuke her!”

The shepherds said to each other, “Let us indeed go over as far as Bethlehem, **and let us see this thing that has happened**, which the Lord has made known to us.” (Luke 2:15 ULT)

The shepherds said to each other, “Let us indeed go over as far as Bethlehem **so that we can see this thing that has happened**, which the Lord has made known to us.”

- (2) If the order of the statements makes the goal statement unclear or confusing for the reader, then change the order.

“... if you want **to enter into life**, keep the commandments.” (Matthew 19:17bULT)

“... keep the commandments if you want **to enter into life**.” or: “... keep the commandments **so that you can enter into life**.”

But when the vine growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him **and take over his inheritance.**' So they took him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. (Matt 21:38-39 ULT)

(1) and (2)

But when the vine growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him **and take over his inheritance.**' So they took him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. (Matt 21:38-39 ULT)

But when the vine growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him **so that we can take over his inheritance.**' So they took him, threw him out of the vineyard and killed him **so that they could take over his inheritance.**

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:4](#); [2:7](#); [6:27](#); [7:5](#); [7:18](#); [8:10](#); [8:20](#); [8:22](#); [9:16](#); [12:48](#); [29:36](#); [30:10](#); [30:20](#); [33:5](#))

Connect — Hypothetical Conditions

Conditional Relationships

This page answers the question: *How can I translate hypothetical conditions?*

Conditional connectors connect two clauses to indicate that one of them will happen when the other one happens. In English, the most common way to connect conditional clauses is with the words “if ... then.” Often, however, the word “then” is not stated.

Hypothetical Condition

Description

A Hypothetical Condition is a condition in which the second event (the “then” clause) will only take place if the first event (the “if” clause) takes place or is fulfilled in some way. Sometimes what takes place is dependent on the actions of other people.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

It is important that translators understand whether or not something is a Hypothetical Condition so that they translate it in the correct way. For example, some of God’s promises to Israel were conditional, based on whether or not Israel obeyed God. However, many of God’s promises to Israel were not conditional; God would keep these promises whether or not the Israelites obeyed. It is important that you (the translator) know the difference between these two types of promises and communicate each one accurately in your own language. Also, sometimes conditions are stated in an order different than the order in which they would happen. If the target language would state the clauses in a different order, then you will need to make that adjustment.

Examples From OBS and the Bible

God promised to bless the people and protect them, **if** they obeyed these laws. But he said he would punish them **if** they did not obey them (Story 13 Frame 7 OBS)

There are two hypothetical conditions in this frame. In both of these conditions, the first event (the “if clause”) is stated after the “then” clause. If this is unnatural or confusing, the clauses can be restated in the more natural order. The first hypothetical condition is: if the Israelites obeyed God, then God would bless and protect them. The second hypothetical condition is: if the Israelites did not obey God, then God would punish them.

If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? (Genesis 4:7a ULT)

If Cain does what is right, then he will be accepted. The only way for Cain to be accepted is by doing what is right.

... **if** this plan or this work is of men, it will be overthrown. But **if** it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. (Acts 5:38b-39aULT)

There are two hypothetical conditions here: (1) If it is true that this plan is of men, then it will be overthrown; (2) If it is true that this plan is of God, then it cannot be overthrown.

Translation Strategies

- (1) If the order of clauses makes the hypothetical condition confusing, then change the order of the clauses.
- (2) If it is not clear where the second event is, mark that part with a word like “then.”

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) If the order of clauses makes the hypothetical condition confusing, then change the order of the clauses.

God promised to bless the people and protect them **if** they obeyed these laws. But he said he would punish them **if** they did not obey them. (Story 13 Frame 7 OBS)

If the people obeyed these laws, God promised he would bless them and protect them. But **if** they did not obey these laws, God said that he would punish them.

(2) If it is not clear where the second event is, mark that part with a word like “then.”

God promised to bless the people and protect them, **if** they obeyed these laws. But he said he would punish them **if** they did not obey them. (Story 13 Frame 7 OBS)

If the people obeyed these laws, **then** God promised he would bless them and protect them. But **if** they did not obey these laws, **then** God said that he would punish them.

... **if** this plan or this work is of men, it will be overthrown. But **if** it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them; (Acts 5:38b-39a ULT)

... **if** this plan or this work is of men, **then** it will be overthrown. But **if** it is of God, **then** you will not be able to overthrow them;

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:10](#); [1:16](#); [3:13](#); [12:44](#); [12:48](#); [Notes](#); [21:2](#); [Notes](#); [22:1](#); [33:5](#); [33:15](#); [34:12](#); [34:16](#))

Connect — Reason-and-Result Relationship

Logical Relationships

Some connectors establish logical relationships between two phrases, clauses, sentences, or chunks of text.

This page answers the question: *How can I translate the reason-result relationship?*

Reason-and-Result Relationships

Description

A reason-and-result relationship is a logical relationship in which one event is the **reason** or cause for another event. The second event, then, is the **result** of the first event.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

A reason-and-result relationship can look forward — “I did Y because I wanted X to happen.” But usually it is looking backward — “X happened, and so I did Y.” Also, it is possible to state the reason either before or after the result. Many languages have a preferred order for the reason and the result, and it will be confusing for the reader if they are in the opposite order. Common words used to indicate a reason-and-result relationship in English are “because,” “so,” “therefore,” and “for.” Some of these words can also be used to indicate a goal relationship, so translators need to be aware of the difference between a goal relationship and a reason-and-result relationship. It is necessary for translators to understand how the two events are connected, and then communicate them clearly in their language.

If the reason and result are stated in different verses, it is still possible to put them in a different order. If you change the order of the verses, then put the verse numbers together at the beginning of the group of verses that were rearranged like this: 1-2. This is called a [Verse Bridge](#).

Examples From OBS and the Bible

The Jews were amazed, **because** Saul had tried to kill believers, and now he believed in Jesus!
(Story 46 Frame 6 OBS)

The **reason** is the change in Saul — that he had tried to kill people who believed in Jesus, and now he himself believed in Jesus. The **result** is that the Jews were amazed. “Because” connects the two ideas and indicates that what follows it is a reason.

Behold, a great storm arose on the sea, **so that** the boat was covered with the waves.
(Matthew 8:24a ULT)

The **reason** is the great storm, and the **result** is that the boat was covered with the waves. The two events are connected by “so that.” Notice that the term “so that” often indicates a goal relationship, but here the relationship is reason-and-result. This is because the sea cannot think and therefore does not have a goal.

God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, **because** in it he rested from all his work which he had done in his creation. (Genesis 2:3 ULT)

The **result** is that God blessed and sanctified the seventh day. The **reason** is because he rested on the seventh day from his work.

“Blessed are the poor, **for** yours is the kingdom of God.” (Luke 6:20b ULT)

The **result** is that the poor are blessed. The **reason** is that the kingdom of God is theirs.

But he raised up in their place their sons that Joshua circumcised, being uncircumcised, **because** they had not been circumcised on the way. (Joshua 5:7 ULT)

The **result** is that Joshua circumcised the boys and men who had been born in the wilderness. The **reason** was that they had not been circumcised while they were journeying.

Translation Strategies

If your language uses reason-and-result relationships in the same way as in the text, then use them as they are.

- (1) If the order of the clauses is confusing for the reader, then change the order.
- (2) If the relationship between the clauses is not clear, then use a more clear connecting word.
- (3) If it is more clear to put a connecting word in the clause that does not have one, then do so.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, **because** in it he rested from all his work which he had done in his creation. (Genesis 2:3 ULT)

(1) God rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done in his creation. **That is why** he blessed the seventh day and sanctified it.

Blessed are the poor, **for** yours is the kingdom of God. (Luke 6:20 ULT)

- (1) The kingdom of God belongs to you who are poor. **Therefore**, the poor are blessed.
- (2) Blessed are the poor, **because** yours is the kingdom of God.
- (3) **The reason that** the poor are blessed **is because** yours is the kingdom of God.

Behold, a great storm arose on the sea, **so that** the boat was covered with the waves. (Matthew 8:24a ULT)

- (1) Behold, the boat was covered with the waves **because** a great storm arose on the sea.
- (2) Behold, a great storm arose on the sea, **with the result that** the boat was covered with the waves.
- (3) Behold, **because** a great storm arose on the sea, the boat was covered with the waves.

Since he was not able to find out anything for certain because of the noise, he ordered that he be brought into the fortress. (Acts 21:34b ULT)

- (1) The captain ordered that Paul be brought into the fortress, **because** he could not tell anything because of all the noise.
- (2) **Because** the captain could not tell anything because of all the noise, he ordered that Paul be brought into the fortress.
- (3) The captain could not tell anything because of all the noise, **so** he ordered that Paul be brought into the fortress.

(Go back to: Exodus 1:19; 1:20; 1:21; 2:2; 2:6; 3:5; 3:6; 3:8; 3:10; 3:13; 3:20; 4:14; 4:21; 4:26; 5:19; 6:6; 6:9; 6:12; 7:5; 7:18; 9:14; 13:21; 23:21; 30:32; 32:10; 32:24; 32:34; 32:35; 33:17; 34:15; 34:16; 34:30)

Connect — Sequential Time Relationship

Time Relationships

Some connectors establish time relationships between two phrases, clauses, sentences, or chunks of text.

This page answers the question: *How do I translate clauses with a sequential time relationship?*

Sequential Clause

Description

A sequential clause is a time relation that connects two events in which one happens and then the other happens.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Languages indicate sequences of events in different ways; some use ordering, some use connecting words, some even use relative tense (Relative tense is a tense that refers to a time in relation to a reference point in the context.) Connecting words that may indicate sequence are words such as “then,” “later,” “after,” “afterward,” “before,” “first,” and “when.” Translators need to be certain that they communicate the order of the events in a way that is natural in their language. This may require ordering clauses differently than in the original languages.

Examples From OBS and the Bible

When Joseph came to his brothers, they kidnapped him and sold him to some slave traders. (OBS Story 8 Frame 2)

First Joseph came to his brothers, and then they kidnapped and sold him. We know this because of the connecting word “**when**.” The translator needs to decide the best way to communicate this sequence clearly and correctly.

It was as sweet as honey in my mouth, but **after** I ate it, my stomach became bitter. (Revelation 10:10b ULT)

The event of the first clause occurs first, and the event of the last clause occurs later. We know this because of the connecting word “**after**.” The translator needs to decide the best way to communicate this sequence clearly and correctly.

For **before** the child knows to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be desolate (Isaiah 7:16 ULT)

The event of the first clause occurs after the event of the second clause. First the land they dread will be desolate, and then the child will know to refuse evil and choose good. We know this because of the connecting word “**before**.” However, stating the clauses in this order may communicate the wrong order of events in your language. The translator may have to change the order so that the clauses come in the order that they happen. Or it may be possible to keep the order of the original language text and mark the ordering of sequence so that it is clear to the readers. You (the translator) need to decide the best way to communicate this sequence clearly and correctly.

Then Mary arose in those days **and** quickly went into the hill country, to a city of Judah, **and** she entered into the house of Zechariah **and** greeted Elizabeth. (Luke 1:39-40 ULT)

Here the general connector “**and**” connects four events. These are sequential events—each happens after the one before it. We know this because that is the only way that these events would happen. So in English, the general

connector “and” is enough to make the sequence clear for events such as these. You will need to decide if this also communicates this sequence clearly and correctly in your language.

Translation Strategies

If the sequence of events is clear in your language, then translate the sequence as it is.

- (1) If the connecting word is not clear, use a connecting word that communicates the sequence more clearly.
- (2) If the clauses are in an order that makes the sequence unclear, put the clauses in an order that is more clear.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) If the connecting word is not clear, use a connecting word that communicates the sequence more clearly.

Then Mary arose in those days **and** quickly went into the hill country, to a city of Judah, **and** she entered into the house of Zechariah **and** greeted Elizabeth. (Luke 1:39-40 ULT)

Then Mary arose in those days. **Then** she quickly went into the hill country, to a city of Judah. **Then** she entered into the house of Zechariah, **and then** she greeted Elizabeth.

For **before** the child knows to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be desolate (Isaiah 7:16 ULT)

For the time will come when the child knows to refuse the evil and choose the good, **but even before that time**, the land whose two kings you dread will be desolate.

- (2) If the clauses are in an order that makes the sequence unclear, put the clauses in an order that is more clear.

For the land whose two kings you dread will be desolate **before** the child knows to refuse the evil and choose the good.

For more about sequences of events, see [Sequence of Events](#).

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:6](#); [2:10](#); [2:11](#); [3:20](#); [4:4](#); [4:19](#); [4:20](#); [5:1](#); [6:1](#); [11:1](#); [24:14](#))

Connect — Simultaneous Time Relationship

Time Relationships

Some connectors establish time relationships between two phrases, clauses, sentences, or chunks of text.

This page answers the question: *How can I translate clauses with a simultaneous time relationship?*

Simultaneous Clause

Description

A simultaneous clause is a time relationship that connects two or more events that occur at the same time.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Languages indicate in many different ways that events occur simultaneously. These ways may vary based on whether or not something is causing the events to occur simultaneously. Connecting words that may indicate simultaneous events are words such as “while,” “as,” and “during.” Often the Bible does not state a relationship between the events but simply says they occurred at the same time. It is important that you (the translator) know when a time relationship is implied and when it is not implied so that you can communicate it clearly. A simultaneous clause communicates that events happened at the same time but it does not indicate that one event caused the other. That would be a reason-and-result relationship.

Examples From OBS and the Bible

Joseph served his master well, **and** God blessed Joseph. (OBS Story 8 Frame 4)

Two events happened while Joseph was a slave to a wealthy government official: Joseph served well, and God blessed Joseph. There is no indication of a reason-and-result (cause and effect) relationship between the two, or that the first event happened, and then the second event happened.

But in truth I say to you that there were many widows in Israel **during** the days of Elijah. (Luke 4:25b ULT)

The connecting word “**during**” tells us clearly that two things happened at the same time, but one event did not cause the other.

And the people were waiting for Zechariah, **and** they were wondering at his delaying in the temple. (Luke 1:21 ULT)

The people were both waiting and wondering at the same time. The general connector “**and**” indicates this.

While they were looking intensely into heaven **as** he was going up, suddenly, two men stood by them in white clothing. (Acts 1:10 ULT)

Three events happened at the same time — the disciples looking, Jesus going up, and two men standing. The connector words “**while**” and “**as**” tell us this.

Translation Strategies

If the way that the simultaneous clauses are marked also is clear in your language, then translate the simultaneous clauses as they are.

- (1) If the connecting word does not make it clear that the simultaneous clauses are happening at the same time, use a connecting word that communicates this more clearly.
- (2) If it is not clear which clause the simultaneous clause is connected to, and that they are happening at the same time, mark all of the clauses with a connecting word.
- (3) If your language marks events as simultaneous in a different way than using connecting words, then use that way.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

Below, each Bible verse will be restated in three different ways, according to the translation strategies in the list above. Each restatement will have the same number as the translation strategy that it is using.

And the people were waiting for Zechariah, **and** they were wondering at his delaying in the temple. (Luke 1:21 ULT)

- (1) Now **while** the people were waiting for Zechariah, they were wondering at his delaying in the temple.
- (2) Now **while** the people were waiting for Zechariah, they were **also** wondering at his delaying in the temple.
- (3) Now the people were waiting for Zechariah, wondering at his delaying in the temple.

While they were looking intently into heaven **as** he was going up, suddenly, two men stood by them in white clothing. (Acts 1:10 ULT)

- (1) And **during the time** they were looking intently into heaven **while** he was going up, suddenly, two men stood by them in white clothing.
- (2) And **while** they were looking intently into heaven **as** he was going up, suddenly, **at that same time** two men stood by them in white clothing.
- (3) They were looking intently into heaven; he was going up **when** they saw two men standing by them in white clothing.

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:10](#); [8:25](#); [29:10](#); [29:15](#); [Notes](#))

Connecting Words and Phrases

Description

This page answers the question: *How do connecting words work to join parts of the text in different ways?*

As humans, we write our thoughts in phrases and sentences. We usually want to communicate a series of thoughts that are connected to each other in different ways. **Connecting words and phrases** show how these thoughts are related to each other. For example, we can show how the following thoughts are related by using the Connecting Words in bold type:

- It was raining, **so** I opened my umbrella.
- It was raining, **but** I did not have an umbrella. **So** I got very wet.

Connecting words or phrases can connect phrases or clauses within a sentence. They can connect sentences to each other. They can also connect entire chunks to one another in order to show how the chunk before relates to the chunk after the connecting word. Very often, the connecting words that connect entire chunks to one another are either conjunctions or adverbs.

It was raining, but I did not have an umbrella, so I got very wet.

Now I must change my clothes. Then I will drink a cup of hot tea and warm myself by the fire.

In the above example, the word **now** connects the two short chunks of text, showing the relationship between them. The speaker must change his clothes, drink hot tea, and warm himself because of something that happened earlier (that is, he got wet in the rain).

Sometimes people might not use a connecting word because they expect the context to help the readers understand the relationship between the thoughts. Some languages do not use connecting words as much as other languages do. They might say:

- It was raining. I did not have an umbrella. I got very wet.

You (the translator) will need to use the method that is most natural and clear in the target language. But in general, using connecting words whenever possible helps the reader to understand the ideas in the Bible most clearly.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- You need to understand the relationship between paragraphs, between sentences, and between parts of sentences in the Bible, and how connecting words and phrases can help you to understand the relationship between the thoughts that they are connecting.
- Each language has its own ways of showing how thoughts are related.
- You need to know how to help readers understand the relationship between the thoughts in a way that is natural in your language.

Translation Principles

- You need to translate in a way that readers can understand the same relationship between thoughts that the original readers would have understood.
- Whether or not a connecting word is used is not as important as readers being able to understand the relationship between the ideas.

The Different Types of Connections

Listed below are different types of connections between ideas or events. These different types of connections can be indicated by using different connecting words. When we write or translate something, it is important to use the right connecting word so that these connections are clear for the reader. If you would like additional information, simply click the colored, hyperlinked word to be directed to a page containing definitions and examples for each type of connection.

- [Sequential Clause](#) — a time relationship between two events in which one happens and then the other happens.
- [Simultaneous Clause](#) — a time relationship between two or more events that occur at the same time.
- [Background Clause](#) — a time relationship in which the first clause describes a long event that is happening at the time when the beginning of the second event happens, which is described in the second clause.
- [Exceptional Relationship](#) — one clause describes a group of people or items, and the other clause excludes one or more items or people from the group.
- [Hypothetical Condition](#) — the second event will only take place if the first one takes place. Sometimes what takes place is dependent on the actions of other people.
- [Factual Condition](#) — a connection that sounds hypothetical but is already certain or true, so that the condition is guaranteed to happen.
- [Contrary-to-Fact Condition](#) — a connection that sounds hypothetical but is already certain that it is not true. See also: [Hypothetical Statements](#).
- [Goal Relationship](#) — a logical relationship in which the second event is the purpose or goal of the first.
- [Reason and Result Relationship](#) — a logical relationship in which one event is the reason for the other event, the result.
- [Contrast Relationship](#) — one item is being described as different or in opposition to another.

Examples from the Bible

I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood. I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me. **Instead**, I went to Arabia and then returned to Damascus. **Then** after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and I stayed with him 15 days. (Galatians 1:16b-18 ULT)

The word “instead” introduces something that contrasts with what was said before. The contrast here is between what Paul did not do and what he did do. The word “then” introduces a sequence of events. It introduces something that Paul did after he returned to Damascus.

Therefore, whoever breaks the least one of these commandments **and** teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. **But** whoever keeps them and teaches them, that one will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19 ULT)

The word “therefore” links this section with the section before it, signaling that the section that came before gave the reason for this section. “Therefore” usually links sections larger than one sentence. The word “and” links only two actions within the same sentence, that of breaking commandments and teaching others. In this verse the word “but” contrasts what one group of people will be called in God’s kingdom with what another group of people will be called.

We place nothing as a stumbling block in front of anyone, **so that** our ministry might not be discredited. **Instead**, we commend ourselves in everything as God’s servants. (2 Corinthians 6:3-4 ULT)

Here the words “so that” connect what follows as the reason for what came before; the reason that Paul does not place stumbling blocks is that he does not want his ministry brought into disrepute. “Instead” contrasts what Paul does (prove by his actions that he is God’s servant) with what he said he does not do (place stumbling blocks).

General Translation Strategies

See each type of Connecting Word above for specific strategies

If the way the relationship between thoughts is shown in the ULT would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, then consider using it. If not, here are some other options.

- (1) Use a connecting word (even if the ULT does not use one).
- (2) Do not use a connecting word if it would be strange to use one and people would understand the right relationship between the thoughts without it.
- (3) Use a different connecting word.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Use a connecting word (even if the ULT does not use one).

Jesus said to them, “Come follow me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.” Then immediately they left the nets and followed him. (Mark 1:17-18 ULT)

They followed Jesus because he told them to. Some translators may want to mark this clause with the connecting word “so.”

Jesus said to them, “Come follow me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.” **So**, immediately they left the nets and followed him.

- (2) Do not use a connecting word if it would be odd to use one, and if people would understand the right relationship between the thoughts without it.

Therefore, whoever breaks the least one of these commandments **and** teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. **But** whoever keeps them and teaches them, that one will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19 ULT)

Some languages would prefer not to use connecting words here because the meaning is clear without them and using them would be unnatural. They might translate like this:

Therefore, whoever breaks the least one of these commandments, teaching others to do so as well, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever keeps them and teaches them, that one will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood. I did not go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me. **Instead**, I went to Arabia and then returned to Damascus. **Then** after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and I stayed with him 15 days. (Galatians 1:16b-18 ULT) (Galatians 1:16-18 ULT)

Some languages might not need the words “instead” or “then” here. They might translate like this:

I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who had become apostles before me. I went to Arabia and then returned to Damascus. After three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and I stayed with him 15 days.

- (3) Use a different connecting word.

Therefore, whoever breaks the least one of these commandments **and** teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. **But** whoever keeps them and teaches them, that one will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:19 ULT)

Instead of a word like “therefore,” a language might need a phrase to indicate that there was a section before it that gave the reason for the section that follows. Also, the word “but” is used here because of the contrast between the two groups of people. But in some languages, the word “but” would show that what comes after it is surprising because of what came before it. So “and” might be clearer for those languages. They might translate like this:

Because of that, whoever breaks the least one of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven.
And whoever keeps them and teaches them, that one will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

(Go back to: [Exodus 5:5](#))

Copy or Borrow Words

Description

Sometimes the Bible includes things that are not part of your culture and for which your language may not have a word. The Bible also includes people and places for which you may not have names.

When that happens you can “borrow” the word from the Bible in a familiar language and use it in your translation in your own language. This means that you basically copy it from the other language. This page tells how to “borrow” words. (There are also other ways to translate words for things that are not in your language. See [Translate Unknowns](#).)

This page answers the question: *What does it mean to borrow words from another language and how can I do it?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Translate Unknowns](#)

Examples From the Bible

▮ Seeing one fig tree along the roadside, he went to it. (Matthew 21:19a ULT)

If there are no fig trees where your language is spoken, there might not be a name for this kind of tree in your language.

▮ Above him were the **seraphim**; each one had six wings; with two each covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. (Isaiah 6:2 ULT)

Your language might not have a name for this kind of creature.

▮ The declaration of the word of Yahweh to Israel by the hand of **Malachi**. (Malachi 1:1 ULT)

Malachi might not be a name that people who speak your language use.

Translation Strategies

There are several things to be aware of when borrowing words from another language.

- Different languages use different scripts, such as the Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Cyrillic, Devanagari, and Korean scripts. These scripts use different shapes to represent the letters in their alphabets.
- Languages that use the same script might pronounce the letters in that script differently. For example, when speaking German, people pronounce the letter “j” the same way that people pronounce the letter “y” when speaking English.
- Languages do not all have the same sounds or combinations of sounds. For example, many languages do not have the soft “th” sound in the English word “think,” and some languages cannot start a word with a combination of sounds like “st” as in “stop.”

There are several ways to borrow a word.

- (1) If your language uses a different script from the language you are translating from, you can simply substitute each letter shape with the corresponding letter shape of the script of your language.
- (2) You can spell the word as the Other Language spells it, and pronounce it the way your language normally pronounces those letters.
- (3) You can pronounce the word similarly to the way the Other Language does, and adjust the spelling to fit the rules of your language.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) If your language uses a different script from the language you are translating from, you can simply substitute each letter shape with the corresponding letter shape of the script of your language.

.A man's name in Hebrew letters — זְפַנְיָהּ
 "Zephaniah" — The same name in Roman letters

(2) You can spell the word as the Other Language spells it, and pronounce it the way your language normally pronounces those letters.

Zephaniah — This is a man's name.
 "Zephaniah" — The name as it is spelled in English, but you can pronounce it according to the rules of your language.

(3) You can pronounce the word similarly to the way the Other Language does, and adjust the spelling to fit the rules of your language.

Zephaniah — If your language does not have the "z," you could use "s." If your writing system does not use "ph" you could use "f." Depending on how you pronounce the "i" you could spell it with "i" or "ai" or "ay."
 "Sefania"
 "Sefanaia"
 "Sefanaya"

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:3; 28:30](#))

Direct and Indirect Quotations

Description

There are two kinds of quotations: direct quotations and indirect quotations.

A direct quotation occurs when someone reports what another person said from the viewpoint of that original speaker. People usually expect that this kind of quotation will represent the original speaker's exact words. In the example below, John would have said "I" when referring to himself, so the narrator, who is reporting John's words, uses the word "I" in the quotation to refer to John. To show that these are John's exact words, many languages put the words between quotation marks: "".

- John said, "I do not know at what time I will arrive."

An indirect quotation occurs when a speaker reports what someone else said, but in this case, the speaker is reporting it from his own point of view instead and not from the original person's point of view. This kind of quotation usually contains changes in pronouns, and it often includes changes in time, in word choices, and in length. In the example below, the narrator refers to John as "he" in the quotation and uses the word "would" to replace the future tense, indicated by "will."

- John said that he did not know at what time he would arrive.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

In some languages, reported speech can be expressed by either direct or indirect quotations. In other languages, it is more natural to use one than the other. There may be a certain meaning implied by using one rather than the other. So for each quotation, translators need to decide whether it is best to translate it as a direct quotation or as an indirect quotation.

Examples From the Bible

The verses in the examples below contain both direct and indirect quotations. In the explanation below the verse, we have marked in bold the words that are quoted.

And he commanded him to tell no one, but, "Go, show yourself to the priest and offer a sacrifice for your cleansing, according to what Moses commanded, for a testimony to them."
(Luke 5:14 ULT)

- Indirect quote: He commanded him **to tell no one**,
- Direct quote: but told him, "**Go, show yourself to the priest ...**"

And being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, he answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with careful observation. Neither will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is among you." (Luke 17:20-21 ULT)

- Indirect quote: Being asked by the Pharisees **when the kingdom of God was coming**,
- Direct quote: he answered them and said, "**The kingdom of God is not coming with careful observation. Neither will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is among you.**"
- Direct quotes: Neither will they say, '**Look, here it is!**' or, '**There it is!**'

This page answers the question: *What are direct and indirect quotations?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Pronouns](#)

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-verbs\]\]](#)

[Quotations and Quote Margins](#)

Translation Strategies

If the kind of quote used in the source text would work well in your language, consider using it. If the kind of quote used in that context is not natural for your language, follow these strategies.

- (1) If a direct quote would not work well in your language, change it to an indirect quote.
- (2) If an indirect quote would not work well in your language, change it to a direct quote.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) If a direct quote would not work well in your language, change it to an indirect quote.

And he commanded him to tell no one, but, **“Go, show yourself to the priest and offer a sacrifice for your cleansing, according to what Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.”** (Luke 5:14 ULT)

He commanded him to tell no one, but **to go and show himself to the priest and offer a sacrifice for his cleansing according to what Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.**

- (2) If an indirect quote would not work well in your language, change it to a direct quote.

And he commanded him **to tell no one**, but, “Go, show yourself to the priest and offer a sacrifice for your cleansing, according to what Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.” (Luke 5:14 ULT)

He commanded him, **“Tell no one.** But go and show yourself to the priest and offer a sacrifice for your cleansing according to what Moses commanded, for a testimony to them.”

You may also want to watch the video at https://ufw.io/figs_quotations.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Quotes within Quotes](#)

(Go back to: Exodus 1:18; 1:22; 2:10; 2:14; 2:18; 4:23; 4:26; 5:10; 6:4; 6:11; 7:2; 7:9; 8:1; 8:5; 8:8; 8:16; 8:20; 9:13; 10:3; 14:2; 14:3; 14:12; 14:26; 25:2; 32:26; 33:5; 33:12; 35:4; 36:5; 36:6)

Double Negatives

A double negative occurs when a clause has two words that each express the meaning of “not.” Double negatives mean very different things in different languages. To translate sentences that have double negatives accurately and clearly, you need to know what a double negative means in the Bible and how to express this idea in your language.

This page answers the question: *What are double negatives?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-partsofspeech\]\]](#)

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-sentences\]\]](#)

Description

Negative words are words that have in them the meaning “not.” Examples in English are “no,” “not,” “none,” “no one,” “nothing,” “nowhere,” “never,” “nor,” “neither,” and “without.” Also, some words have prefixes or suffixes that mean “not,” such as the bolded parts of these words: “**un**happy,” “**im**possible,” and “use**less**.” Some other kinds of words also have a negative meaning, such as “lack” or “reject,” or even “fight” or “evil.”

A double negative occurs when a clause has two words that each have a negative meaning.

We did this **not** because we have **no** authority ... (2 Thessalonians 3:9a ULT)

And this was **not** done **without** an oath! (Hebrews 7:20a ULT)

Be sure of this—the wicked person will **not** go **un**punished. (Proverbs 11:21a ULT)

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Double negatives mean very different things in different languages.

- In some languages, such as English, a second negative in a clause cancels the first one, creating a positive sentence. So, “He is not unintelligent” means “He is intelligent.”
- In some languages, such as French and Spanish, two negative words in a clause do not cancel each other to become a positive. The Spanish sentence, “No vi a nadie,” literally says “I did not see no one.” It has both the word ‘no’ next to the verb and ‘nadie,’ which means “no one.” The two negatives are seen as in agreement with each other, and the sentence means, “I did not see anyone.”
- In some languages, a double negative creates a stronger negative statement.
- In some languages, a double negative creates a positive sentence, but it is a weak statement. So, “He is not unintelligent” means, “He is somewhat intelligent.”
- In some languages, including the languages of the Bible, a double negative can produce a stronger positive meaning than a simple positive statement. So, “He is not unintelligent” can mean “He is very intelligent.” In this case, the double negative is actually the figure of speech called [litotes](#).

Biblical Greek can do all of the above. So to translate sentences with double negatives accurately and clearly in your language, you need to know what each double negative means in the Bible and how to express the same idea in your language.

Examples From the Bible

The Greek of John 15:5 says:

χωρὶς ἐμοῦ οὐ δύνασθε ποιεῖν οὐδέν

Without me **not** you can do **nothing**

We cannot reproduce this double negative in the English ULT because in English, a second negative in a clause cancels the first one. In English, and perhaps in your language, we need to choose only one of the negatives and say either:

Without me, you can do **nothing**.

or:

Without me, you **cannot** do anything.

... in order **not** to be **unfruitful**. (Titus 3:14b ULT)

This means "in order to be fruitful."

A prophet is **not without** honor (Mark 6:4 ULT)

This means "a prophet is honored."

I do **not** want you to be **ignorant**. (1 Corinthians 12:1)

This means "I want you to be knowledgeable."

Translation Strategies

If the way that the double negative is used in the Bible is natural and has the same meaning as in your language, consider using it in the same way. Otherwise, you could consider these strategies:

(1) If the purpose of a double negative in the Bible is to make a positive statement, and if it would not do that in your language, remove the two negatives so that it is positive.

(2) If the purpose of a double negative in the Bible is to make a negative statement, and if it would not do that in your language, remove one of the two negatives.

(3) If the purpose of a double negative in the Bible is to make a stronger negative statement, and if it would not do that in your language, remove one of the two negatives and add a strengthening word.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) If the purpose of a double negative in the Bible is to make a positive statement, and if it would not do that in your language, remove the two negatives so that it is positive.

For we do **not** have a high priest who **cannot** feel sympathy for our weaknesses. (Hebrews 4:15a ULT)

"For we have a high priest who can feel sympathy for our weaknesses."

... in order **not** to be **unfruitful**. (Titus 3:14b ULT)

"... so that they may be fruitful."

(2) If the purpose of a double negative in the Bible is to make a negative statement, and if it would not do that in your language, remove one of the two negatives.

χωρὶς ἐμοῦ οὐ δύνασθε ποιεῖν οὐδέν

Without me **not** you can do **nothing** (John 15:5)

Without me, you can do **nothing**.

or:

Without me, you **cannot** do anything.

(3) If the purpose of a double negative in the Bible is to make a stronger negative statement, and if it would not do that in your language, remove one of the two negatives and add a strengthening word.

...ἰῶτα ἓν ἢ μία κεραία **οὐ μὴ** παρέλθῃ ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου (Matthew 5:18)

...iota one or one serif **not not** may pass away from the law

...**not even** one iota or one serif may pass away from the law

or:

...**certainly no** iota or serif may pass away from the law

Next we recommend you learn about:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-verbs]]

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:21](#); [5:11](#); [8:29](#); [12:30](#); [12:48](#); [20:7](#); [21:10](#); [22:22](#); [22:29](#); [23:15](#); [23:26](#); [28:28](#); [34:20](#))

Doublet

Description

We are using the word “doublet” to refer to two words or phrases that are used together and either mean the same thing or mean very close to the same thing. Often they are joined with the word “and.” Unlike Hendiadys, in which one of the words modifies the other, in a doublet the two words or phrases are equal and are used to emphasize or intensify the one idea that is expressed by the two words or phrases.

This page answers the question: *What are doublets and how can I translate them?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro\]\]](#)

A very similar issue is the repetition of the same word or phrase for emphasis, usually with no other words between them. Because these figures of speech are so similar and have the same effect, we will treat them here together.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

In some languages people do not use doublets. Or they may use doublets, but only in certain situations, so a doublet might not make sense in their language in some verses. People might think that the verse is describing two ideas or actions, when it is only describing one. In this case, translators may need to find some other way to express the meaning expressed by the doublet.

Examples From the Bible

He has one people **scattered** and **dispersed** among the peoples (Esther 3:8 ULT)

The bolded words mean the same thing. Together they mean the people were spread out.

He attacked two men **more righteous** and **better** than himself. (1 Kings 2:32b ULT)

This means that they were “much more righteous” than he was.

You have decided to prepare **false** and **deceptive** words. (Daniel 2:9b ULT)

This means that they had decided to lie, which is another way of saying that they intended to deceive people.

... like of a lamb **without blemish** and **without spot**. (1 Peter 1:19b ULT)

This means that he was like a lamb that did not have any defect—not even one.

Then they approached {and} woke him up, saying, “**Master! Master!** We are perishing!” (Luke 8:24 ULT)

The repetition of “Master” means that the disciples called to Jesus urgently and continually.

Translation Strategies

If a doublet would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, consider these strategies.

(1) Translate only one of the words or phrases.

(2) If the doublet is used to intensify the meaning, translate one of the words or phrases and add a word that intensifies it such as “very” or “great” or “many.”

(3) If the doublet is used to intensify or emphasize the meaning, use one of your language's ways of doing that.

Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Translate only one of the words.

You have decided to prepare **false** and **deceptive** words. (Daniel 2:9b ULT)

"You have decided to prepare **false** things to say."

(2) If the doublet is used to intensify the meaning, translate one of the words and add a word that intensifies it such as "very" or "great" or "many."

He has one people **scattered** and **dispersed** among the peoples (Esther 3:8 ULT)

"He has one people **very spread out**."

(3) If the doublet is used to intensify or emphasize the meaning, use one of your language's ways of doing that.

... like a lamb **without blemish** and **without spot**. (1 Peter 1:19b ULT)

- English can emphasize this with "any" and "at all."

"... like a lamb **without any blemish at all**."

Then they approached {and} woke him up, saying, "**Master! Master!** We are perishing!" (Luke 8:24 ULT)

Then they approached {and} woke him up, **urgently shouting, "Master!**
We are perishing!"

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:7](#); [1:20](#); [4:10](#); [7:3](#); [15:16](#); [23:7](#); [32:11](#); [32:30](#); [32:31](#); [34:6](#); [34:8](#); [34:9](#); [39:32](#); [39:40](#); [40:2](#); [40:6](#))

Ellipsis

Description

An ellipsis¹ occurs when a speaker or writer leaves out one or more words that normally should be in the sentence. The speaker or writer does this because he knows that the hearer or reader will understand the meaning of the sentence and supply the words in his mind when he hears or reads the words that are there. For example:

So the wicked will not stand in the judgment, **nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**
(Psalm 1:5 ULT)

There is ellipsis in the second part because “nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous” is not a complete sentence. The speaker assumes that the hearer will understand what it is that sinners will not do in the assembly of the righteous by filling in the action from the previous clause. With the action filled in, the complete sentence would read:

So the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor **will** sinners **stand** in the assembly of the righteous.

[¹] English has a punctuation symbol which is also called an ellipsis. It is a series of three dots (...) used to indicate an intentional omission of a word, phrase, sentence or more from text without altering its original meaning. This translationAcademy article is not about the punctuation mark, but about the concept of omission of words that normally should be in the sentence.

Two Types of Ellipsis

A Relative Ellipsis happens when the reader has to supply the omitted word or words from the context. Usually the word is in the previous sentence, as in the example above.

An Absolute Ellipsis happens when the omitted word or words are not in the context, but the phrases are common enough in the language that the reader is expected to supply what is missing from this common usage or from the nature of the situation.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Readers who see incomplete sentences or phrases may not know that there is information missing that the writer expects them to fill in. Or readers may understand that there is information missing, but they may not know what information is missing because they do not know the original biblical language, culture, or situation as the original readers did. In this case, they may fill in the wrong information. Or readers may misunderstand the ellipsis if they do not use ellipsis in the same way in their language.

Examples From the Bible

Relative Ellipsis

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf **and Sirion like a young ox.** (Psalm 29:6 ULT)

The writer wants his words to be few and to make good poetry. The full sentence with the information filled in would be:

This page answers the question: *What is ellipsis ?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro]]

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-sentences]]

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and **he makes** Sirion **skip** like a young ox.

Watch carefully, therefore, how you walk—**not as unwise but as wise**. (Ephesians 5:15b ULT)

The information that the reader must understand in the second parts of these sentences can be filled in from the first parts:

Watch carefully, therefore, how you walk—**walk** not as unwise but **walk** as wise,

Absolute Ellipsis

Then when he had come near, he asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And so he said, “Lord, **that I might recover my sight**.” (Luke 18:40b-41 ULT)

It seems that the man answered in an incomplete sentence because he wanted to be polite and not directly ask Jesus for healing. He knew that Jesus would understand that the only way he could receive his sight would be for Jesus to heal him. The complete sentence would be:

“Lord, **I want you to heal me so** that I might receive my sight.”

To Titus, a true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. (Titus 1:4 ULT)

The writer assumes that the reader will recognize this common form of a blessing or wish, so he does not need to include the full sentence, which would be:

To Titus, a true son in our common faith. **May you receive** grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

Translation Strategies

If ellipsis would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here is another option:

(1) Add the missing words to the incomplete phrase or sentence.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Add the missing words to the incomplete phrase or sentence.

So the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor **sinner in the assembly** of the righteous. (Psalm 1:5 ULT)

So the wicked will not stand in the judgment, and **sinner will not stand in the assembly** of the righteous.

Then when he had come near, he asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” And so he said, “Lord, **that I might recover my sight**.” (Luke 18:40b-41 ULT)

Then when the man was near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, **I want you to heal me** that I might receive my sight.”

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf **and Sirion like a young ox**. (Psalm 29:6 ULT)

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and **he makes** Sirion **skip** like a young ox.

(Go back to: Exodus 4 General Notes; 4:5; 8:2; 14:4; 14:17; 14:18; 20:5; 20:6; 23:2; 27:11; 27:18; 30:23; 32:32; 34:7; 34:15; 35:5; 35:10; 36:6; 38:11; 38:22; 38:26; 38:28; 40:2)

End of Story

Description

There are different types of information that may be given at the end of a story. Often this is background information. This background information is different from the actions that make up the main part of the story. A book of the Bible is often made up of many smaller stories that are part of the larger story of the book itself. For example, the story of Jesus' birth is a smaller story in the larger story of the book of Luke. Each of these stories, whether large or small, can have background information at the end of it.

This page answers the question: *What kinds of information are given at the end of a story?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/writing-intro\]\]](#)

[Background Information](#)

The following are purposes for end of story information:

- to summarize the story
- to give a comment about what happened in the story
- to connect a smaller story to the larger story it is a part of
- to tell the reader what happens to a specific character after the main part of the story ends
- to tell on-going action that continues after the main part of the story ends
- to tell what happens after the story as a result of the events that happened in the story itself

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

Different languages have different ways of presenting these kinds of information. If you (the translator) do not use your language's ways of doing this, readers may not know:

- that this information is ending the story
- what the purpose of the information is
- how the information is related to the story

Translation Strategies

- Translate the particular kind of information at the end of a story the way your language expresses that kind of information.
- Translate it so that people will understand how it relates to the story it is part of.
- If possible, translate the end of the story in a way that people will know where that story ends and the next begins.

Examples From the Bible

- To summarize the story

Then the rest of the men should follow, some on planks, and some on other things from the ship. **In this way it happened that all of us were brought safely to the land.** (Acts 27:44 ULT)

- To give a comment about what happened in the story

Many of those who practiced magical arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of everyone. Then they counted the value of them, and found it was 50,000 pieces of silver. **So the word of the Lord was spreading and prevailing with power.** (Acts 19:19-20 ULT)

- To tell the reader what happens to a specific character after the main part of the story ends

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoiced in God my savior." **And Mary stayed with her about three months and then returned to her house.** (Luke 1:46-47, 56 ULT)

- To tell on-going action that continues after the main part of the story ends

All who those who heard it were amazed concerning the things that were spoken to them by the shepherds. **But Mary kept all the things, pondering them in her heart.** (Luke 2:18-19 ULT)

- To tell what happens after the story as a result of the events that happened in the story itself

"Woe to you, experts in the Jewish law, because you have taken away the key of knowledge; you do not enter in yourselves, and you hinder those who are entering." **After he went from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to fiercely oppose him and argued against him about many things, lying in wait to trap him in something from his mouth.** (Luke 11:52-54 ULT)

(Go back to: [Exodus 11:10](#); [39:32](#); [39:43](#))

Euphemism

Description

A euphemism is a mild or polite way of referring to something that is unpleasant, embarrassing, or socially unacceptable, such as death or activities usually done in private.

... they found Saul and his sons **fallen** on Mount Gilboa.
(1 Chronicles 10:8b ULT)

This means that Saul and his sons “were dead.” It is a euphemism because the important thing was not that Saul and his sons had fallen but that they were dead. Sometimes people do not like to speak directly about death because it is unpleasant.

This page answers the question: *What is a euphemism?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro]]

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Different languages use different euphemisms. If the target language does not use the same euphemism as in the source language, readers may not understand what it means and they may think that the writer means only what the words literally say.

Examples From the Bible

... where there was a cave. Saul went inside to **cover his feet**. (1 Samuel 24:3b ULT)

The original hearers would have understood that Saul went into the cave to use it as a toilet, but the writer wanted to avoid offending or distracting them, so **he did not say specifically** what Saul did or what he left in the cave.

But Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I have not **known a man?**” (Luke 1:34 ULT)

In order **to be polite**, Mary uses a euphemism to say that she has never had sexual intercourse with a man.

Translation Strategies

If euphemism would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here are other options:

- (1) Use a euphemism from your own culture.
- (2) State the information plainly without a euphemism if it would not be offensive.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Use a euphemism from your own culture.

... where there was a cave. Saul went inside to **cover his feet**. (1 Samuel 24:3b ULT) — Some languages might use euphemisms like these:

“... where there was a cave. Saul went into the cave to **dig a hole**”

“... where there was a cave. Saul went into the cave to **have some time alone**”

But Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I have not **known a man?**” (Luke 1:34 ULT)

But Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I have not **slept with a man?**”

(2) State the information plainly without a euphemism if it would not be offensive.

They found Saul and his sons **fallen** on Mount Gilboa. (1 Chronicles 10:8b ULT)

“They found Saul and his sons **dead** on Mount Gilboa.”

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:25](#); [5:16](#); [19:15](#); [19:21](#); [21:10](#); [22:16](#); [22:19](#); [28:42](#); [32:6](#))

Exclamations

Description

Exclamations are words or sentences that show strong feeling such as surprise, joy, fear, or anger. In the ULT and UST, they usually have an exclamation mark (!) at the end. The mark shows that it is an exclamation. The situation and the meaning of what the people said helps us understand what feelings they were expressing. In the example below from Matthew 8, the speakers were terribly afraid. In the example from Matthew 9, the speakers were amazed, because something happened that they had never seen before.

This page answers the question: *What are ways of translating exclamations?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-sentencetypes]]

Save us, Lord; we are about to die! (Matthew 8:25b ULT)

When the demon had been driven out, the mute man spoke. The crowds were astonished and said, "This has never been seen before in Israel!" (Matthew 9:33 ULT)

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Languages have different ways of showing that a sentence communicates strong emotion.

Examples From the Bible

Some exclamations have a word that shows feeling. The sentences below have "Oh" and "Ah." The word "oh" here shows the speaker's amazement.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! (Romans 11:33 ULT)

The word "Alas" below shows that Gideon was very frightened.

When Gideon saw that he was the angel of Yahweh, Gideon lamented, "**Alas**, O my Lord Yahweh, for because of this I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face!" (Judges 6:22 ULT)

Some exclamations start with a question word such as "how" or "why," even though they are not questions. The sentence below shows that the speaker is amazed at how unsearchable God's judgments are.

How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways beyond discovering! (Romans 11:33b ULT)

Some exclamations in the Bible do not have a main verb. The exclamation below shows that the speaker is disgusted with the person he is speaking to.

You worthless person! (Matthew 5:22b ULT)

Translation Strategies

- (1) If an exclamation in your language needs a verb, add one. Often a good verb is "is" or "are."
- (2) Use an exclamation word from your language that shows the strong feeling.
- (3) Translate the exclamation word with a sentence that shows the feeling.
- (4) Use a word that emphasizes the part of the sentence that brings about the strong feeling.

(5) If the strong feeling is not clear in the target language, then tell how the person felt.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) If an exclamation in your language needs a verb, add one. Often a good verb is “is” or “are.”

You worthless person! (Matthew 5:22b ULT)

“You **are** such a worthless person!”

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! (Romans 11:33b ULT)

“Oh, the riches of the wisdom and the knowledge of God **are** so deep!”

(2) Use an exclamation word from your language that shows the strong feeling. In the first suggested translation below, the word “wow” shows that they were astonished. In the second suggested translation, the expression “Oh no” shows that something terrible or frightening has happened.

They were extremely astonished, saying, “He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” (Mark 7:37 ULT)

“They were extremely astonished, saying, “**Wow!** He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.””

Alas, oh my Lord Yahweh! For because of this I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face! (Judges 6:22b ULT)

“**Oh no,** Lord Yahweh! I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face!”

(3) Translate the exclamation word with a sentence that shows the feeling.

“**Alas,** O my Lord Yahweh, for because of this I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face!” (Judges 6:22 ULT)

“Lord Yahweh, **what will happen to me?** For I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face!”

“**Help,** Lord Yahweh! For I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face!”

(4) Use a word that emphasizes the part of the sentence that brings about the strong feeling.

How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways beyond discovering! (Romans 11:33b ULT)

“His judgments are **so** unsearchable and his ways are **far** beyond discovering!”

(5) If the strong feeling is not clear in the target language, then tell how the person felt.

When Gideon saw that he was the angel of Yahweh, Gideon lamented, “**Alas,** O my Lord Yahweh, for because of this I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face!” (Judges 6:22 ULT)

Gideon understood that this was the angel of Yahweh. **He was terrified** and said, “**Alas,** Lord Yahweh! I have seen the angel of Yahweh face to face!”

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:9; 2:6; 2:13; 3:9; 4:6; 4:7; 5:17](#))

Exclusive and Inclusive 'We'

Description

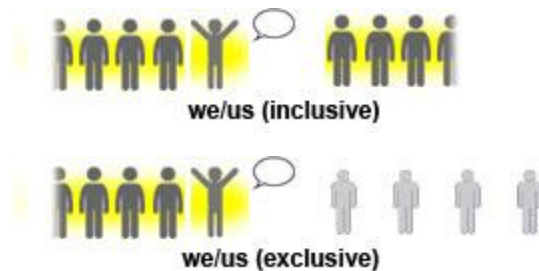
Some languages have more than one form of "we": an inclusive form that means "I and you" and an exclusive form that means "I and someone else but not you." The exclusive form excludes the person being spoken to. The inclusive form includes the person being spoken to and possibly others. This is also true for "us," "our," "ours," and "ourselves." Some languages have inclusive forms and exclusive forms for each of these. Translators whose language has separate exclusive and inclusive forms for these words will need to understand what the speaker meant so that they can decide which form to use.

This page answers the question: *What are the exclusive and inclusive forms of "we"?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Pronouns](#)

See the pictures. The people on the right are the people that the speaker is talking to. The yellow highlight shows who the inclusive "we" and the exclusive "we" refer to.



Reason This Is a Translation Issue

The Bible was first written in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages. Like English, these languages do not have separate exclusive and inclusive forms for "we." If your language has separate exclusive and inclusive forms of "we," then you will need to understand what the speaker meant so that you can decide which form of "we" to use.

Examples From the Bible

Exclusive

They said, "There are not more than five loaves of bread and two fish with us—unless **we** go and buy food for all these people." (Luke 9:13 ULT)

In the second clause, the disciples are talking about some of them going to buy food. They were speaking to Jesus, but Jesus was not going to buy food. So languages that have inclusive and exclusive forms of "we" would use the **exclusive** form there.

We have seen it, and **we** bear witness to it. **We** are announcing to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and which has been made known to **us**. (1 John 1:2 ULT)

John is telling people who have not seen Jesus what he and the other apostles have seen. So languages that have inclusive and exclusive forms of "we" and "us" would use the **exclusive** forms in this verse.

Inclusive

The shepherds said one to each other, "Let **us** now go to Bethlehem, and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to **us**." (Luke 2:15b ULT)

The shepherds were speaking to one another. When they said "us," they were including the people they were speaking to, so languages that have inclusive and exclusive forms of "we" and "us" would use the **inclusive** form in this verse.

Now it happened that on one of those days, he indeed got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let **us** go over to the other side of the lake." So they set sail. (Luke 8:22 ULT)

When Jesus said "us," he was referring to himself and to the disciples he was speaking to, so languages that have inclusive and exclusive forms of "we" and "us" would use the **inclusive** form in this verse.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[When Masculine Words Include Women](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:10](#); [3:18](#); [5:3](#); [8:10](#); [8:26](#); [8:27](#); [10:9](#); [10:25](#); [10:26](#))

First, Second or Third Person

Normally a speaker refers to himself as “I” and the person he is speaking to as “you.” Sometimes in the Bible a speaker refers to himself or to the person he is speaking to with terms other than “I” or “you.”

Description

- First person — This is how a speaker normally refers to himself. English uses the pronouns “I” and “we.” (Also: me, my, mine; us, our, ours)
- Second person — This is how a speaker normally refers to the person or people he is speaking to. English uses the pronoun “you.” (Also: your, yours)
- Third person — This is how a speaker refers to someone else. English uses the pronouns “he,” “she,” “it,” and “they.” (Also: him, his, her, hers, its; them, their, theirs) Noun phrases like “the man” or “the woman” are also third person.

This page answers the question: *What are first, second, and third person, and how do I translate when a third person form does not refer to the third person?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-explicitinfo\]\]](#)

[Pronouns](#)

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Sometimes in the Bible a speaker uses the third person to refer to himself or to the people he is speaking to. Readers might think that the speaker was referring to someone else. They might not understand that he meant “I” or “you.”

Examples From the Bible

Sometimes people used the third person instead of “I” or “me” to refer to themselves.

But David said to Saul, “**Your servant** used to keep **his** father’s sheep.” (1 Samuel 17:34 ULT)

David referred to himself in the third person as “your servant” and used “his.” He was calling himself Saul’s servant in order to show his humility before Saul.

Then Yahweh answered Job out of a fierce storm and said,
“... Do you have an arm like **God’s**? Can you thunder with a voice like **his**?” (Job 40:6, 9 ULT)

God referred to himself in the third person with the words “God’s” and “his.” He did this to emphasize that he is God, and he is powerful.

Sometimes people use the third person instead of “you” or “your” to refer to the person or people they are speaking to.

Abraham answered and said, “Look, I have undertaken to speak to my Lord, even though I am only dust and ashes!” (Genesis 18:27 ULT)

Abraham was speaking to the Lord, and referred to the Lord as “My Lord” rather than as “you.” He did this to show his humility before God.

So also my heavenly Father will do to you, if **each of you** does not forgive **his** brother from your heart. (Matthew 18:35 ULT)

After saying “each of you,” Jesus used the third person “his” instead of “your.”

Translation Strategies

If using the third person to mean “I” or “you” would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here are some other options.

- (1) Use the third person phrase along with the pronoun “I” or “you.”
- (2) Simply use the first person (“I”) or second person (“you”) instead of the third person.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Use the third person phrase along with the pronoun “I” or “you.”

But David said to Saul, “**Your servant** used to keep **his** father’s sheep.” (1 Samuel 17:34)

But David said to Saul, “**I, your servant**, used to keep **my** father’s sheep.”

- (2) Simply use the first person (“I”) or second person (“you”) instead of the third person.

Then Yahweh answered Job out of a fierce storm and said, “... Do you have an arm like **God’s**? Can you thunder with a voice like **his**?” (Job 40:6, 9 ULT)

Then Yahweh answered Job out of a fierce storm and said, “... Do you have an arm like **mine**? Can you thunder with a voice like **mine**?”

So also my heavenly Father will do to you if **each of you** does not forgive **his** brother from your heart. (Matthew 18:35 ULT)

So also my heavenly Father will do to you if **each of you** does not forgive **your** brother from your heart.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Forms of You](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:10](#); [4:20](#); [5:3](#); [5:15](#); [5:16](#); [8:29](#); [9:3](#); [9:4](#); [9:5](#); [15:26](#); [23:25](#); [24:1](#); [24:2](#); [Notes](#); [25:9](#); [27:8](#); [28:35](#); [28:38](#); [29:24](#); [30:15](#); [32:4](#); [32:8](#); [32:22](#); [34:6](#); [34:7](#); [Notes](#); [Notes](#); [Notes](#); [Notes](#))

Forms of You

Singular, Dual, and Plural

Some languages have more than one word for “you” based on how many people the word “you” refers to. The **singular** form refers to one person, and the **plural** form refers to more than one person. Some languages also have a **dual** form which refers to two people, and some languages have other forms that refer to three or four people.

You may also want to watch the video at https://ufw.io/figs_younum.

Sometimes in the Bible a speaker uses a singular form of “you” even though he is speaking to a crowd.

- [Singular Pronouns that Refer to Groups](#)

Formal and Informal

Some languages have more than one form of “you” based on the relationship between the speaker and the person he is talking to. People use the **formal** form of “you” when speaking to someone who is older, or has higher authority, or is someone they do not know very well. People use the **informal** form when speaking to someone who is not older, or does not have higher authority, or is a family member or close friend.

You may also want to watch the video at https://ufw.io/figs_youform.

For help with translating these, we suggest you read:

- [Forms of “You” — Formal or Informal](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 30:12](#); [30:26](#); [30:36](#))

This page answers the question: *What are the different forms of you?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Forms of ‘You’ — Singular](#)

[Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#)

Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural

Description

Some languages have a singular form of “you” for when the word “you” refers to just one person, and a plural form for when the word “you” refers to more than one person. Some languages also have a dual form of “you” for when the word “you” refers to only two people. Translators who speak one of these languages will always need to know what the speaker meant so they can choose the right word for “you” in their language. Other languages, such as English, have only one form, which people use regardless of how many people it refers to.

This page answers the question: *How do I know if the word 'you' is dual or plural?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Forms of You](#)

[Pronouns](#)

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-partsofspeech]]

The Bible was first written in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages. These languages all have a singular form of “you” and a plural form of “you.” When we read the Bible in those languages, the pronouns and verb forms show us whether the word “you” refers to one person or more than one person. However, they do not show us whether it refers to only two people or more than two people. When the pronouns do not show us how many people the word “you” refers to, we need to look at the context to see how many people the speaker was speaking to.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- Translators who speak a language that has distinct singular, dual, and plural forms of “you” will always need to know what the speaker meant so they can choose the right word for “you” in their language.
- Many languages also have different forms of the verb depending on whether the subject is singular or plural. So even if there is no pronoun meaning “you,” translators of these languages will need to know if the speaker was referring to one person or more than one.

Often the context will make it clear whether the word “you” refers to one person or more than one. If you look at the other pronouns in the sentence, they will help you know how many people the speaker was addressing.

Examples From the Bible

Then **James and John**, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him, saying to him, “Teacher, we desire that you to do for us whatever we ask you.” 36 So he said to them, “What do **you** want me to do for **you**?” (Mark 10:35-36 ULT)

Jesus is asking the two, James and John, what they want him to do for them. If the target language has a dual form of “you,” use that. If the target language does not have a dual form, then the plural form would be appropriate.

Jesus sent out two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village opposite us. As soon as **you** enter it, **you** will find a colt tied there, on which no one has yet sat. Untie it and bring it to me.” (Mark 11:1b-2 ULT)

The context makes it clear that Jesus is addressing two people. If the target language has a dual form of “you,” use that. If the target language does not have a dual form, then the plural form would be appropriate.

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes who are in the dispersion: Greetings. Consider it all joy, my brothers, when **you** experience various troubles. You know that the testing of **your** faith produces endurance. (James 1:1-3 ULT)

James wrote this letter to many people, so the word “you” refers to many people. If the target language has a plural form of “you,” it would be best to use it here.

Strategies for finding out how many people “you” refers to

- (1) Look at the translationNotes to see if they tell whether “you” refers to one person or more than one person.
- (2) Look at the UST to see if it says anything that would show you whether the word “you” refers to one person or more than one person.
- (3) If you have a Bible that is written in a language that distinguishes “you” singular from “you” plural, see which form of “you” that Bible has in that sentence.
- (4) Look at the context to see who the speaker was talking to and who responded.

You may also want to watch the video at https://ufw.io/figs_youdual.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Forms of 'You' — Singular](#)

(Go back to: Exodus 1:16; 1:18; 1:22; 3:12; 3:16; 3:18; 3:20; 3:21; 3:22; 4:15; 5:4; 5:5; 5:7; 5:8; 5:10; 5:11; 5:14; 5:17; 5:18; 5:21; 6:6; 6:7; 6:8; 7:4; 7:9; 8:25; 8:28; 9:3; 9:8; 10:16; 10:17; 10:24; 11:1; 11:7; Notes; 12:3; 12:31; 14:2; 19:4; 25:2; 25:9; 30:1; 30:36; 30:37; 34:10)

Forms of 'You' — Singular

Description

Some languages have a singular form of “you” for when the word “you” refers to just one person, and a **plural** form for when the word “you” refers to more than one person. Translators who speak one of these languages will always need to know what the speaker meant so they can choose the right word for “you” in their language. Other languages, such as English, have only one form, which people use regardless of how many people it refers to.

This page answers the question: *How do I know if the word 'you' is singular?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-partsofspeech\]\]](#)

[Forms of You](#)

[Pronouns](#)

The Bible was first written in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages. These languages all have both a singular form of “you” and a plural form of “you.” When we read the Bible in those languages, the pronouns and verb forms show us whether the word “you” refers to one person or more than one. When we read the Bible in a language that does not have different forms of you, we need to look at the context to see how many people the speaker was speaking to.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

- Translators who speak a language that has distinct singular and plural forms of “you” will always need to know what the speaker meant so they can choose the right word for “you” in their language.
- Many languages also have different forms of the verb depending on whether the subject is singular or plural. So even if there is no pronoun meaning “you,” translators of these languages will need to know if the speaker was referring to one person or more than one.

Often the context will make it clear whether the word “you” refers to one person or more than one. If you look at the other pronouns in the sentence, they will help you know the number of people the speaker was speaking to. Sometimes Greek and Hebrew speakers used the singular form of “you” even though they were speaking to a group of people. (See [Forms of 'You' — Singular to a Crowd](#).)

Examples From the Bible

But he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” But when he heard this, Jesus said to him, “One thing is still lacking to **you**. All things, as much as **you** have, sell all and distribute to the poor, and **you** will have treasure in heaven—and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:21-22 ULT)

The ruler was speaking about just himself when he said “I.” This shows us that when Jesus said “you” he was referring only to the ruler. So languages that have singular and plural forms of “you” need the singular form here.

The angel said to him, “Dress **yourself** and put on **your** sandals.” So he did that. He said to him, “Put on **your** outer garment and follow me.” (Acts 12:8 ULT)

The context makes it clear that the angel was speaking to one person and that only one person did what the the angel commanded. So languages that have singular and plural forms of “you” would need the singular form here for “yourself” and “your.” Also, if verbs have different forms for singular and plural subjects, then the verbs “dress” and “put on” need the form that indicates a singular subject.

To Titus, a true son in our common faith. For this purpose I left **you** in Crete, that **you** might set in order things not yet complete and ordain elders in every city as I directed **you**. But **you**, say what fits with sound teaching. (Titus 1:4a, 5; 2:1 ULT)

Paul wrote this letter to one person, Titus. Most of the time the word “you” in this letter refers only to Titus.

Strategies for finding out how many people “you” refers to

- (1) Look at the notes to see if they tell whether “you” refers to one person or more than one person.
- (2) Look at the UST to see if it says anything that would show you whether the word “you” refers to one person or more than one person.
- (3) If you have a Bible that is written in a language that distinguishes “you” singular from “you” plural, see which form of “you” that Bible has in that sentence.
- (4) Look at the context to see how many people the speaker was talking to and who responded.

You may also want to watch the video at https://ufw.io/figs_younum.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Forms of 'You' — Dual/Plural](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:44](#); [25:9](#); [25:22](#); [26:1](#); [28:1](#); [28:3](#); [30:6](#); [33:14](#); [33:17](#))

Fractions

Description

A fraction is a number that represents part of a whole. When an item is divided into several equal parts, a fraction refers to one or more of those parts.

For the drink offering, you must offer **a third** of a hin of wine. (Numbers 15:7a ULT)

A hin is a container of a set size which is used for measuring wine and other liquids. The people were to think about dividing a hin container into three equal parts, filling up only one of those parts and offering that amount.

... **a third** of the ships were destroyed. (Revelation 8:9b ULT)

There were many ships. If all those ships were divided into three equal groups of ships, one group of ships was destroyed.

Most fractions in English simply have the letters “th” added to the end of the number, such as fourth, sixth, ninth, tenth.

| Number of parts the whole is divided into | Fraction | | ----- | ----- | | four | fourth | | ten | tenth | | one hundred | one hundredth | | one thousand | one thousandth |

Some fractions in English do not follow that pattern.

| Number of parts the whole is divided into | Fraction | | ----- | ----- | | two | half | | three | third | | five | fifth |

Reason This is a Translation Issue

Some languages do not use fractions. They may simply talk about parts or groups, but they do not use fractions to tell how big a part is or how many parts are included in a group.

Examples From the Bible

Now to the **half-tribe** of Manasseh, Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the other **half**, Joshua gave a possession among their brothers across the Jordan on the west. (Joshua 22:7 ULT)

The tribe of Manasseh divided into two groups. The phrase “the half-tribe of Manasseh” refers one of those groups. The phrase “the other half” refers to the other group.

So the four angels who had been prepared for that hour, that day, that month, and that year, were released so that they would kill **a third** of mankind. (Revelation 9:15 ULT)

If all the people in the world were to be divided into three equal groups, then the number of people in one group would be killed.

You must also prepare **a fourth** of a hin of wine as the drink offering. (Numbers 15:5 ULT)

They were to imagine dividing a hin of wine into four equal parts and prepare the amount equal to one of them.

This page answers the question: *What are fractions and how can I translate them?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Numbers](#)

Translation Strategies

If a fraction in your language would give the right meaning, consider using it. If not, you could consider these strategies.

- (1) Tell the number of parts or groups that the item would be divided into, and then tell the number of parts or groups that is being referred to.
- (2) For measurements such as for weight and length, use a unit that your people might know or the unit in the UST.
- (3) For measurements, use ones that are used in your language. In order to do that you would need to know how your measurements relates to the metric system and figure out each measurement.

Examples of These Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Tell the number of parts or groups that the item would be divided into, and then tell the number of parts or groups that is being referred to.

A third of the ocean became red like blood (Revelation 8:8 ULT)

It was like they **divided** the ocean **into three parts**, and **one part** of the ocean became blood.

Then you must offer with the bull a grain offering of **three-tenths** of an ephah of fine flour mixed with **half a hin** of oil. (Numbers 15:9 ULT)

... then you must **divide** an ephah of fine flour **into ten parts** and **divide** a hin of oil **into two parts**. Then mix **three of those parts** of the flour with **one of the parts** of oil. Then you must offer that grain offering along with the bull.

(2) For measurements, use the measurements that are given in the UST. The translators of the UST have already figured how to represent the amounts in the metric system.

... **two-thirds of a shekel** ... (1 Samuel 13:21b ULT)

... **eight grams** of silver ... (1 Samuel 13:21b UST)

... **three-tenths of an ephah** of fine flour mixed with **half a hin** of oil. (Numbers 15:9b ULT)

... **six and one-half liters** of finely ground flour mixed with **two liters** of olive oil. (Numbers 15:9b UST)

(3) For measurements, use ones that are used in your language. In order to do that you would need to know how your measurements relates to the metric system and figure out each measurement.

... **three-tenths of an ephah** of fine flour mixed with **half a hin** of oil. (Numbers 15:9b ULT)

six quarts of fine flour mixed with **two quarts** of oil.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Ordinal Numbers](#)

[Biblical Money](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 16:36](#); [25:10](#); [25:17](#); [25:23](#); [26:12](#); [26:16](#); [29:40](#); [30:13](#); [38:26](#))

Generic Noun Phrases

Description

Generic noun phrases refer to people or things in general rather than to specific individuals or things. This happens frequently in proverbs, because proverbs tell about things that are true about people in general.

Can **a man** walk on hot coals without scorching his feet?
So is **the man who goes in to his neighbor's wife;**
the one who touches her will not go unpunished. (Proverbs 6:28-29 ULT)

The phrases in bold above do not refer to a specific man. They refer to any man who does these things.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Different languages have different ways of showing that noun phrases refer to something in general. You (the translator) should refer to these general ideas in ways that are natural in your language.

Examples From the Bible

The **righteous person** is kept away from trouble and it comes upon **the wicked** instead. (Proverbs 11:8 ULT)

The bold phrases above do not refer to a specific person but to anyone who does what is right or anyone who is wicked.

People curse **the man who refuses to sell grain**. (Proverbs 11:26 ULT)

This does not refer to a particular man, but to any person who refuses to sell grain.

Yahweh gives favor to **a good man**, but he condemns **a man who makes evil plans**. (Proverbs 12:2 ULT)

The phrase "a good man" does not refer to a particular man, but to any person who is good. The phrase "a man who makes evil plans" does not refer to a particular man, but to any person who makes evil plans.

Translation Strategies

If your language can use the same wording as in the ULT to refer to people or things in general rather than to specific individuals or things, consider using the same wording. If not, here are some strategies you might use.

- (1) Use the word "the" in the noun phrase.
- (2) Use the word "a" in the noun phrase.
- (3) Use the word "any," as in "any person" or "anyone."
- (4) Use the plural form, as in "people."

This page answers the question: *What are generic noun phrases and how can I translate them?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-partsofspeech]]

(5) Use any other way that is natural in your language.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Use the word “the” in the noun phrase.

Yahweh gives favor to **a good man**, but he condemns **a man who makes evil plans**. (Proverbs 12:2 ULT)

“Yahweh gives favor to **the good man**, but he condemns **the man who makes evil plans**.” (Proverbs 12:2)

(2) Use the word “a” in the noun phrase.

People curse **the man** who refuses to sell grain. (Proverbs 11:26 ULT)

“People curse **a man** who refuses to sell grain.”

(3) Use the word “any,” as in “any person” or “anyone.”

People curse **the man** who refuses to sell grain. (Proverbs 11:26 ULT)

“People curse **any man** who refuses to sell grain.”

(4) Use the plural form, as in “people” (or in this sentence, “men”).

People curse **the man** who refuses to sell grain. (Proverbs 11:26 ULT)

“People curse **men** who refuse to sell grain”

(5) Use any other way that is natural in your language.

People curse **the man** who refuses to sell grain. (Proverbs 11:26 ULT)

“People curse **whoever** refuses to sell grain.”

Next we recommend you learn about:

[When Masculine Words Include Women](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:1](#); [16:19](#); [Notes](#); [36:6](#); [36:8](#); [Notes](#); [Notes](#); [Notes](#))

Go and Come

Description

This page answers the question: *What do I do if the word "go" or "come" is confusing in a certain sentence?*

Different languages have different ways of determining whether to use the words "go" or "come" and whether to use the words "take" or "bring" when talking about motion. For example, when saying that they are approaching a person who has called them, English speakers say "I'm coming," while Spanish speakers say "I'm going." You will need to study the context in order to understand what is meant by the words "go" and "come" (and also "take" and "bring"), and then translate those words in a way that your readers will understand which direction people are moving in.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Different languages have different ways of talking about motion. The biblical languages or your source language may use the words "go" and "come" or "take" and "bring" differently than your language uses them. If these words are not translated in the way that is natural in your language, your readers may be confused about which direction people are moving.

Examples From the Bible

Yahweh said to Noah, "**Come**, you and all your household, into the ark." (Genesis 7:1 ULT)

In some languages, this would lead people to think that Yahweh was in the ark.

But you will be free from my oath if you **come** to my relatives and they will not give her to you. Then you will be free from my oath. (Genesis 24:41 ULT)

Abraham was speaking to his servant. Abraham's relatives lived far away from where he and his servant were standing and he wanted his servant to **go** to them, not **come** toward Abraham.

When you have **come** to the land that Yahweh your God gives you, and when you take possession of it and begin to live in it ... (Deuteronomy 17:14a ULT)

Moses is speaking to the people in the wilderness. They had not yet gone into the land that God was giving them. In some languages, it would make more sense to say, "When you have **gone** into the land ..."

They **brought** him up to the temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (Luke 2:22b ULT)

In some languages, it might make more sense to say that they **took** or **carried** Jesus to the temple.

Then see, there was a man whose name was Jairus, and he was a leader of the synagogue. And falling at the feet of Jesus, he begged him to come to his house. (Luke 8:41 ULT)

The man was not at his house when he spoke to Jesus. He wanted Jesus to **go** with him to his house.

What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed shaken by the wind? (Luke 7:24b ULT)

In some languages, it might make more sense to ask what did you come out to see.

Translation Strategies

If the word used in the ULT would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here are other strategies.

- (1) Use the word “go,” “come,” “take,” or “bring” that would be natural in your language.
- (2) Use another word that expresses the right meaning.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Use the word “go,” “come,” “take,” or “bring” that would be natural in your language.

But you will be free from my oath if you **come** to my relatives and they will not give her to you. (Genesis 24:41 ULT)

But you will be free from my oath if you **go** to my relatives and they will not give her to you.

What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed shaken by the wind? (Luke 7:24b ULT)

What did you come out into the desert to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

- (2) Use another word that expresses the right meaning.

When you have **come** to the land that Yahweh your God gives you, and when you take possession of it and begin to live in it ... (Deuteronomy 17:14 ULT)

“When you have **arrived** in the land that Yahweh your God gives you, and when you take possession of it and begin to live in it ...”

Yahweh said to Noah, “**Come**, you and all your household, into the ark ...” (Genesis 7:1 ULT)

Yahweh said to Noah, “**Enter**, you and all your household, into the ark ...”

What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed shaken by the wind? (Luke 7:24b ULT)

What did you travel out into the desert to see? A reed shaken by the wind?

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:1](#); [2:5](#); [2:8](#); [2:11](#); [2:13](#); [2:16](#); [2:17](#); [2:18](#); [3:1](#); [3:8](#); [3:13](#); [3:21](#); [4:14](#); [4:18](#); [5:1](#); [5:15](#); [8:24](#); [15:17](#); [19:13](#); [19:20](#))

Hebrew Months

Description

This page answers the question: *What are the Hebrew months?*

The Hebrew calendar used in the Bible has twelve months. Unlike the western calendar, its first month begins in the spring of the northern hemisphere. Sometimes a month is called by its name (Aviv, Ziv, Sivan), and sometimes it is called by its order in the Hebrew calendar year (first month, second month, third month).

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- Readers may be surprised to read of months that they have never heard of, and they may wonder how those months correspond to the months that they use.
- Readers may not realize that phrases such as “the first month” or “the second month” refer to the first or second month of the Hebrew calendar, not some other calendar.
- Readers may not know when the first month of the Hebrew calendar begins.
- The Bible may tell about something happening in a certain month, but readers will not be able to fully understand what is said about it if they do not know what season of the year that was.

List of Hebrew Months

This is a list of the Hebrew months with information about them that may be helpful in the translation.

Aviv — (This month was called **Nisan** after the Babylonian exile.) This is the first month of the Hebrew calendar. It marks when God brought the people of Israel out of Egypt. It is at the beginning of the spring season when the late rains come and people begin to harvest their crops. It is during the last part of March and the first part of April on western calendars. The Passover celebration started on Aviv 10; the Festival of Unleavened Bread was right after that, and the Festival of Harvest was a few weeks after that.

Ziv — This is the second month of the Hebrew calendar. This is during the harvest season. It is during the last part of April and the first part of May on Western calendars.

Sivan — This is the third month of the Hebrew calendar. It is at the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the dry season. It is during the last part of May and the first part of June on Western calendars. The Feast of Weeks is celebrated on Sivan 6.

Tammuz — This is the fourth month of the Hebrew calendar. It is during the dry season. It is during the last part of June and the first part of July on Western calendars.

Ab — This is the fifth month of the Hebrew calendar. It is during the dry season. It is during the last part of July and the first part of August on Western calendars.

Elul — This is the sixth month of the Hebrew calendar. It is at the end of the dry season and the beginning of the rainy season. It is during the last part of August and the first part of September on Western calendars.

Ethanim — This is the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. This is during the early rain season which would soften the land for sowing. It is during the last part of September and the first part of October on Western calendars. The Feast of Ingathering and the Day of Atonement are celebrated in this month.

Bul — This is the eighth month of the Hebrew calendar. It is during the rainy season when people plough their fields and sow seed. It is during the last part of October and the first part of November on Western calendars.

Kislev — This is the ninth month of the Hebrew calendar. This is at the end of the sowing season and the beginning of the cold season. It is during the last part of November and the first part of December on Western calendars.

Tebeth — This is the tenth month of the Hebrew calendar. It is during the cold season when there may be rain and snow. It is during the last part of December and the first part of January on Western calendars.

Shebat — This is the eleventh month of the Hebrew calendar. This is the coldest month of the year, and it has heavy rainfall. It is during the last part of January and the first part of February on Western calendars.

Adar — This is the twelfth and last month of the Hebrew calendar. This is during the cold season. It is during the last part of February and the first part of March on western calendars. The feast called Purim is celebrated in Adar.

Examples From the Bible

Today you are going out, in **the month of Aviv**. (Exodus 13:4 ULT)

You must eat unleavened bread from evening of the fourteenth day **in the first month of the year**, until evening of the twenty-first day of the month. (Exodus 12:18 ULT)

Translation Strategies

You may need to make some information about the months explicit. (See [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#).)

- (1) Tell the number of the Hebrew month.
- (2) Use the names for months that people know.
- (3) State clearly what season the month occurred in.
- (4) Refer to the time in terms of the season rather than in terms of the Hebrew name of the month. (If possible, use a footnote to show the Hebrew month and day.)

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

The examples below use these two verses.

At that time, you will appear before me in **the month of Aviv**, which is fixed for this purpose. It was in this month that you came out from Egypt. (Exodus 23:15b ULT)

It will always be a statute for you that in **the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month**, you must humble yourselves and do no work. (Leviticus 16:29a ULT)

- (1) Tell the number of the Hebrew month.

At that time, you will appear before me in **the first month of the year**, which is fixed for this purpose. It was in this month that you came out from Egypt.

- (2) Use the months that people know.

At that time, you will appear before me in **the month of March**, which is fixed for this purpose. It was in this month that you came out from Egypt.

It will always be a statute for you that **on the day I choose in late September** you must humble yourselves and do no work.

- (3) State clearly what season the month occurs in.

It will always be a statute for you that **in the autumn, on the tenth day of the seventh month**, you must humble yourselves and do no work.

(4) Refer to the time in terms of the season rather than in terms of the month.

It will always be a statute for you that in **the day I choose in early autumn**¹ you must humble yourselves and do no work.

The footnote would look like:

^[1] The Hebrew says, “the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month.”

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Ordinal Numbers](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:2](#); [12:14](#); [12:18](#); [13:4](#); [16:1](#); [23:15](#); [34:18](#))

How to Translate Names

Description

The Bible contains the names of many people, groups of people, and places. Some of these names may sound strange and be hard to say. Sometimes readers may not know what a name refers to, and sometimes they may need to understand what a name means. This page will help you see how you can translate these names and how you can help people understand what they need to know about them.

This page answers the question: *How can I translate names that are new to my culture?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Translate Unknowns](#)

Meaning of names

Most names in the Bible have meaning. Most of the time, names in the Bible are used simply to identify the people and places they refer to, but sometimes the meaning of a name is especially important.

For this **Melchizedek**, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, was the one who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him. (Hebrews 7:1 ULT)

Here the writer uses the name “Melchizedek” primarily to refer to a man who had that name, and the title “king of Salem” tells us that he ruled over a certain city.

His name first indeed means “king of righteousness,” and then also “king of Salem,” that is, “king of peace.” (Hebrews 7:2b ULT)

Here the writer explains the meanings of Melchizedek’s name and title because those things tell us more about the person. Other times, the writer does not explain the meaning of a name because he expects the reader to already know the meaning. If the meaning of the name is important to understand the passage, you can include the meaning in the text or in a footnote.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- Readers may not know some of the names in the Bible. They may not know whether a name refers to a person or place or something else.
- Readers may need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand the passage.
- Some names may have different sounds or combinations of sounds that are not used in your language or are unpleasant to say in your language. For strategies to address this problem, see [Borrow Words](#).
- Some people and places in the Bible have two names. Readers may not realize that two names refer to the same person or place.

Examples From the Bible

Then you crossed over the **Jordan** and came to **Jericho**, and the men of Jericho, and the **Amorites** ... fought against you, but I gave them into your hand. (Joshua 24:11 ULT)

Readers might not know that “Jordan” is the name of a river, “Jericho” is the name of a city, and “Amorites” is the name of a group of people.

She said, “Do I really continue to see, even after he has seen me?” Therefore, the well was called **Beer Lahai Roi**. (Genesis 16:13b-14a ULT)

Readers may not understand the second sentence if they do not know that “Beer Lahai Roi” means “Well of the Living One who sees me.”

And she called his name **Moses** and she said, “For out of the water I drew him.” (Exodus 2:10b ULT)

Readers may not understand why she said this if they do not know that the name Moses sounds like the Hebrew words “pull out.”

Saul was in agreement with his execution. (Acts 8:1a ULT)

But when the apostles, Barnabas and **Paul**, heard of it, they tore their clothing. (Acts 14:14a ULT)

Readers may not know that the names Saul and Paul refer to the same person.

Translation Strategies

- (1) If readers cannot easily understand from the context what kind of a thing a name refers to, you can add a word to clarify it.
- (2) If readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, copy the name and tell about its meaning either in the text or in a footnote.
- (3) Or if readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, and that name is used only once, translate the meaning of the name instead of copying the name.
- (4) If a person or place has two different names, use one name most of the time and the other name only when the text tells about the person or place having more than one name or when it says something about why the person or place was given that name. Write a footnote when the source text uses the name that is used less frequently.
- (5) Or if a person or place has two different names, then use whatever name is given in the source text, and add a footnote that gives the other name.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) If readers cannot easily understand from the context what kind of a thing a name refers to, you can add a word to clarify it.

Then you crossed over the **Jordan** and came to **Jericho**, and the men of Jericho, and the **Amorites** ... fought against you, but I gave them into your hand. (Joshua 24:11 ULT)

You went over the **Jordan River** and came to the **city of Jericho**. The men of Jericho fought against you, along with **the tribe of the Amorites**.

At that hour, certain Pharisees approached, saying to him, “Leave and go away from here, because **Herod** wants to kill you.” (Luke 13:31 ULT)

At that hour, certain Pharisees approached, saying to him, “Go and leave here, because **King Herod** wants to kill you.”

- (2) If readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, copy the name and tell about its meaning either in the text or in a footnote.

And she called his name **Moses** and she said, "For out of the water I drew him." (Exodus 2:10b ULT)

She called his name **Moses (which sounds like 'drawn out')**, and she said, "For out of the water I drew him."

(3) Or if readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, and that name is used only once, translate the meaning of the name instead of copying the name.

She said, "Do I really continue to see, even after he has seen me?" Therefore, the well was called **Beer Lahai Roi**. (Genesis 16:13b-14a ULT)

She said, "Do I really continue to see, even after he has seen me?" Therefore, the well was called **Well of the Living One who sees me**.

(4) If a person or place has two different names, use one name most of the time and the other name only when the text tells about the person or place having more than one name or when it says something about why the person or place was given that name. Write a footnote when the source text uses the name that is used less frequently. For example, Paul is called "Saul" before Acts 13 and "Paul" after Acts 13. You could translate his name as "Paul" all of the time, except in Acts 13:9 where it talks about him having both names.

... a young man named **Saul**. (Acts 7:58b ULT)

... a young man named **Paul** 1

The footnote would look like:

[1] Most versions say "Saul" here, but most of the time in the Bible he is called "Paul."

Then later in the story, you could translate this way:

But **Saul**, who is also called **Paul**, was filled with the Holy Spirit; (Acts 13:9)

But **Saul**, who is also called **Paul**, was filled with the Holy Spirit;

(5) Or if a person or place has two names, use whatever name is given in the source text, and add a footnote that gives the other name. For example, you could write "Saul" where the source text has "Saul" and "Paul" where the source text has "Paul."

a young man named **Saul** (Acts 7:58 ULT)

a young man named **Saul**

The footnote would look like:

[1] This is the same man who is called Paul beginning in Acts 13.

Then later in the story, you could translate this way:

But **Saul**, who is also called **Paul**, was filled with the Holy Spirit; (Acts 13:9)

But **Saul**, who is also called **Paul**, was filled with the Holy Spirit;

Then after the story has explained the name change, you could translate this way.

It came about in Iconium that **Paul** and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue (Acts 14:1 ULT)

It came about in Iconium that **Paul**¹ and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue

The footnote would look like:

^[1] This is the same man who was called Saul before Acts 13.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Copy or Borrow Words](#)

(Go back to: [Introduction to Exodus](#); [Exodus 1:1](#); [1:15](#); [2:18](#); [2:21](#); [2:22](#); [4:25](#); [6:14](#); [6:15](#); [6:16](#); [6:17](#); [6:18](#); [6:19](#); [6:20](#); [6:21](#); [6:22](#); [6:23](#); [6:24](#); [6:25](#); [12:37](#); [13:20](#); [14:2](#); [14:9](#); [15:22](#); [15:23](#); [15:27](#); [Notes](#); [16:1](#); [Formatting](#); [17:1](#); [17:7](#); [17:8](#); [17:10](#); [18:3](#); [18:4](#); [19:2](#); [24:1](#); [24:9](#); [24:14](#); [28:1](#); [31:2](#); [31:6](#); [34:11](#); [35:30](#); [35:34](#); [36:1](#); [38:21](#); [38:22](#); [38:23](#))

Hyperbole

Description

A speaker or writer can use exactly the same words to say something that he means as completely true, or as generally true, or as a hyperbole. This is why it can be hard to decide how to understand a statement. For example, the sentence below could mean three different things.

It rains here every night.

The speaker means this as literally true if he means that it really does rain here every night.

The speaker means this as a **generalization** if he means that it rains here most nights.

The speaker means this as a **hyperbole** if he wants to say that it rains more than it actually does, usually in order to express a strong attitude toward the amount or frequency of rain, such as being annoyed or being happy about it.

This page answers the question: *What are hyperboles? What are generalizations? How can I translate them?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro]]

Hyperbole

In hyperbole, a figure of speech that uses exaggeration, a speaker deliberately describes something with an extreme or even unreal statement, usually to show his strong feeling or opinion about it. He expects people to understand that he is exaggerating.

They will not leave **stone upon stone in you**. (Luke 19:44b ULT)

This is an exaggeration. It means that the enemies will completely destroy Jerusalem.

Moses was educated in **all the wisdom of the Egyptians**. (Acts 7:22a ULT)

This hyperbole means that he had learned everything an Egyptian education could offer.

Generalization

This is a statement that is true most of the time or in most situations that it could apply to.

The one who ignores instruction **will have poverty and shame**, but **honor will come** to him who learns from correction. (Proverbs 13:18)

These generalizations tell about what normally happens to people who ignore instruction and what normally happens to people who learn from correction. There may be some exceptions to these statements, but they are generally true.

And when you pray, do not make useless repetitions as **the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words**. (Matthew 6:7)

This generalization tells about what Gentiles were known for doing. Many Gentiles did this. It does not matter if a few did not. The point was that the hearers should not join in this well-known practice.

Even though a hyperbole or a generalization may have a strong-sounding word like "all," "always," "none," or "never," it does not necessarily mean **exactly** "all," "always," "none," or "never." It simply means "most," "most of the time," "hardly any," or "rarely."

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Readers need to be able to understand whether or not a statement is literally true.

If readers realize that a statement is not literally true, they need to be able to understand whether it is a hyperbole, a generalization, or a lie. (Though the Bible is completely true, it tells about people who did not always tell the truth.)

Examples From the Bible

Examples of Hyperbole

If your hand causes you to stumble, **cut it off**. It is better for you to enter into life maimed ... (Mark 9:43a ULT)

When Jesus said to cut off your hand, he meant that we should **do whatever extreme things** we need to do in order not to sin. He used this hyperbole to show how extremely important it is to try to stop sinning.

The Philistines gathered together to fight against Israel with 3,000 chariots, 6,000 men to drive the chariots, and troops **as numerous as the sand on the seashore**. (1 Samuel 13:5a ULT)

The bolded phrase is an exaggeration for the purpose of expressing the emotion that the Philistine army was overwhelming in number. It means that there were **many, many** soldiers in the Philistine army.

But as his anointing teaches you **everything** and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, remain in him. (1 John 2:27b ULT)

This is a hyperbole. It expresses the assurance that God's Spirit teaches us about **all things that we need to know**. God's Spirit does not teach us about everything that it is possible to know.

When they found him, they also said to him, "**Everyone** is looking for you." (Mark 1:37 ULT)

The disciples probably did not mean that everyone in the city was looking for Jesus, but that **many people** were looking for him, or that all of Jesus' closest friends there were looking for him. This is an exaggeration for the purpose of expressing the emotion that they and many others were worried about him.

Examples of Generalization

Can **any good thing** come out of Nazareth? (John 1:46b ULT)

This rhetorical question is meant to express the generalization that there is nothing good in Nazareth. The people there had a reputation for being uneducated and not strictly religious. Of course, there were exceptions.

One of them, of their own prophets, has said, "**Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy bellies**." (Titus 1:12 ULT)

This is a generalization that means that Cretans had a reputation to be like this because, in general, this is how Cretans behaved. It is possible that there were exceptions.

A lazy hand causes a person to be poor, but the hand of the diligent person gains riches. (Proverbs 10:4 ULT)

This is generally true, and it reflects the experience of most people. It is possible that there are exceptions in some circumstances.

Caution

- Do not assume that something is an exaggeration just because it seems to be impossible. God does miraculous things.

They saw Jesus **walking on the sea** and coming near the boat. (John 6:19b ULT)

This is not hyperbole. Jesus really walked on the water. It is a literal statement.

- Do not assume that the word “all” is always a generalization that means “most.”
 - > Yahweh is righteous in **all** his ways
 - > and gracious in **all** he does. (Psalms 145:17 ULT)

Yahweh is always righteous. This is a completely true statement.

Translation Strategies

If the hyperbole or generalization would be natural and people would understand it and not think that it is a lie, consider using it. If not, here are other options.

- (1) Express the meaning without the exaggeration.
- (2) For a generalization, show that it is a generalization by using a phrase like “in general” or “in most cases.”
- (3) For a hyperbole or a generalization, add a word like “many” or “almost” to show that the hyperbole or generalization is not meant to be exact.
- (4) For a hyperbole or a generalization that has a word like “all,” “always,” “none,” or “never,” consider deleting that word.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Express the meaning without the exaggeration.

The Philistines gathered together to fight against Israel: 3,000 chariots, 6,000 men to drive the chariots, and troops **as numerous as the sand on the seashore**. (1 Samuel 13:5a ULT)

The Philistines gathered together to fight against Israel: 3,000 chariots, 6,000 men to drive the chariots, and **a great number of troops**.

- (2) For a generalization, show that it is a generalization by using a phrase like “in general” or “in most cases.”

The one who ignores instruction will have poverty and shame. (Proverbs 13:18a ULT)

In general, the one who ignores instruction will have poverty and shame

When you pray, do not make useless repetitions as the **Gentiles do**, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. (Matthew 6:7 ULT)

And when you pray, do not make useless repetitions as the Gentiles **generally** do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words.

- (3) For a hyperbole or a generalization, add a word like “many” or “almost” to show that the hyperbole or generalization is not meant to be exact.

The **whole** country of Judea and **all** the people of Jerusalem went out to him. (Mark 1:5a ULT)

Almost all the country of Judea and **almost all** the people of Jerusalem went out to him.
or:

Many of the country of Judea and **many** of the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

(4) For a hyperbole or a generalization that has a word like “all,” “always,” “none,” or “never,” consider deleting that word.

The **whole** country of Judea and **all** the people of Jerusalem went out to him. (Mark 1:5a ULT)

The country of Judea and the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

(Go back to: [Exodus 5:12](#); [7:24](#); [8:17](#); [8:31](#); [9:6](#); [10:6](#); [15:20](#); [16:2](#); [17:14](#); [32:3](#); [34:7](#); [35:23](#); [35:24](#))

Hypothetical Situations

Consider these phrases: “If the sun stopped shining ...” “What if the sun stopped shining ...” “Suppose the sun stopped shining ...” and “If only the sun had not stopped shining.” We use such expressions to set up hypothetical situations, imagining what might have happened or what could happen in the future but probably will not. We also use them to express regret or wishes. Hypothetical expressions occur often in the Bible. You (the translator) need to translate them in a way that people will know that the event did not actually happen and so that they will understand why the event was imagined.

This page answers the question: *What is a hypothetical situation?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/writing-intro\]\]](#)

Description

Hypothetical situations are situations that are not real. They can be in the past, present, or future. Hypothetical situations in the past and present have not happened, are not happening now, and ones in the future are not expected to happen.

People sometimes tell about conditions and what would happen if those conditions were met, but they know that these things have not happened or probably will not happen. (The conditions comprise a phrase that starts with “if.”)

- If he had lived to be 100 years old, he would have seen his grandson’s grandson. (But he did not.)
- If he lived to be 100 years old, he would still be alive today. (But he is not.)
- If he lives to be 100 years old, he will see his grandson’s grandson. (But he probably will not.)

People sometimes express wishes about things that have not happened or that are not expected to happen.

- I wish he had come.
- I wish he were here.
- I wish he would come.

People sometimes express regrets about things that have not happened or that are not expected to happen.

- If only he had come.
- If only he were here.
- If only he would come.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

- Translators need to recognize the different kinds of hypothetical situations in the Bible and understand that they are unreal.
- Translators need to know their own language’s ways of talking about different kinds of hypothetical situations.

Examples From the Bible

Hypothetical Situations in the Past

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! **If the mighty deeds had been done** in Tyre and Sidon which were done in you, **they would have repented** long ago in sackcloth and ashes.” (Matthew 11:21 ULT)

Here in Matthew 11:21, Jesus said that **if** the people living in the ancient cities of Tyre and Sidon had been able to see the miracles that he performed, they would have repented long ago. The people of Tyre and Sidon did not actually see his miracles, and they did not repent. He said this to rebuke the people of Chorazin and Bethsaida who had seen his miracles and yet did not repent.

Martha then said to Jesus, “Lord, **if you had been here, my brother would not have died.**” (John 11:21 ULT)

Martha said this to express her wish that Jesus would have come sooner so that her brother would not have died. But Jesus did not come sooner and her brother did die.

Hypothetical Situations in the Present

And no man puts new wine into old wineskins. **But if he did do that, the new wine would burst the wineskins, and it would be spilled out, and the wineskins would be destroyed.** (Luke 5:37 ULT)

Jesus told about what would happen if a person were to put new wine into old wineskins. But no one would do that. He used this imaginary situation as an example to show that there are times when it is unwise to mix new things with old things. He did this so that people could understand why his disciples were not fasting as people traditionally did.

Jesus said to them, “What man would there be among you, who, **if he had just one sheep, and if this sheep fell into a deep hole on the Sabbath, would not grasp hold of it and lift it out?**” (Matthew 12:11 ULT)

Jesus asked the religious leaders what they would do on the Sabbath if one of their sheep fell into a hole. He was not saying that their sheep would fall into a hole. He used this imaginary situation to show them that they were wrong to judge him for healing people on the Sabbath.

Hypothetical Situation in the Future

Unless those days are shortened, no flesh would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened. (Matthew 24:22 ULT)

Jesus was talking about a future time when very bad things would happen. He told what would happen if those days of trouble were to last a long time. He did this to show how bad those days will be—so bad that if they lasted a long time, no one would be saved. But then he clarified that God will shorten those days of trouble so that the elect (those he has chosen) will be saved.

Expressing Emotion About a Hypothetical Situation

People sometimes talk about hypothetical situations in order to express regrets and wishes. Regrets are about the past and wishes are about the present and future.

The Israelites said to them, “**If only we had died by Yahweh’s hand in the land of Egypt when we were sitting by the pots of meat and were eating bread to the full.** For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill our whole community with hunger.” (Exodus 16:3 ULT)

Here the Israelites were afraid that they would have to suffer and die of hunger in the wilderness, and so they wished that they had stayed in Egypt and died there with full stomachs. They were complaining, expressing regret that this had not happened.

I know what you have done, and that you are neither cold nor hot. **I wish that you were either cold or hot!** (Revelation 3:15 ULT)

Jesus wished that the people were either hot or cold, but they are neither. He was rebuking them, expressing anger at this.

Translation Strategies

Find out how people speaking your language show:

- that something could have happened, but did not.
- that something could be true now, but is not.
- that something could happen in the future, but will not unless something changes.
- that they wish for something, but it does not happen.
- that they regret that something did not happen.

Use your language's ways of showing these kinds of things.

You may also want to watch the video at https://ufw.io/figs_hypo.

(Go back to: [Exodus 8:8](#); [9:15](#); [13:17](#); [16:3](#); [34:12](#); [34:15](#))

Idiom

An idiom is a figure of speech made up of a group of words that, as a whole, has a meaning that is different from what one would understand from the meanings of the individual words. Someone from outside of the culture usually cannot understand an idiom without someone inside the culture explaining its true meaning. Every language uses idioms. Some English examples are:

- You are pulling my leg. (This means, “You are teasing me by telling me something that is not true.”)
- Do not push the envelope. (This means, “Do not take a matter to its extreme.”)
- This house is under water. (This means, “The debt owed for this house is greater than its actual value.”)
- We are painting the town red. (This means, “We are going around town tonight celebrating very intensely.”)

This page answers the question: *What are idioms and how can I translate them?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro]]

Description

An idiom is a phrase that has a special meaning to the people of the language or culture who use it. Its meaning is different than what a person would understand from the meanings of the individual words that form the phrase.

He **set his face** to go to Jerusalem. (Luke 9:51b ULT)

The words “set his face” is an idiom that means “decided.”

Sometimes people may be able to understand an idiom from another culture, but it might sound like a strange way to express the meaning.

I am not worthy that you would **come under my roof**. (Luke 7:6b ULT)

The phrase “come under my roof” is an idiom that means “enter my house.”

Put these words **into your ears**. (Luke 9:44a ULT)

This idiom means “Listen carefully and remember what I say.”

Purpose: An idiom is probably created in a culture somewhat by accident when someone describes something in an unusual way. But, when that unusual way communicates the message powerfully and people understand it clearly, other people start to use it. After a while, it becomes a normal way of talking in that language.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- People can easily misunderstand idioms in the original languages of the Bible if they do not know the cultures that produced the Bible.
- People can easily misunderstand idioms that are in the source language Bibles if they do not know the cultures that made those translations.
- It is useless to translate idioms literally (according to the meaning of each word) when the target language audience will not understand what they mean.

Examples From the Bible

Then all Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “Look, we are your **flesh and bone**.” (1 Chronicles 11:1 ULT)

This means, “We and you belong to the same race, the same family.”

█ The children of Israel went out **with a high hand**. (Exodus 14:8b ASV)

This means, "The Israelites went out defiantly."

█ the one who **lifts up my head** (Psalm 3:3b ULT)

This means, "the one who helps me."

Translation Strategies

If the idiom would be clearly understood in your language, consider using it. If not, here are some other options.

- (1) Translate the meaning plainly without using an idiom.
- (2) Use a different idiom that people use in your own language that has the same meaning.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Translate the meaning plainly without using an idiom.

█ Then all Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Look, we are your **flesh and bone**." (1 Chronicles 11:1 ULT)

█ Look, we all **belong to the same nation**.

█ Then he **set his face** to go to Jerusalem. (Luke 9:51b ULT)

█ He started to travel to Jerusalem, **determined to reach it**.

█ I am not worthy that you would come **under my roof**. (Luke 7:6b ULT)

█ I am not worthy that you should enter **my house**.

- (2) Use an idiom that people use in your own language that has the same meaning.

█ Put these words **into your ears**. (Luke 9:44a ULT)

█ **Be all ears** when I say these words to you.

█ My **eyes grow dim** from grief. (Psalm 6:7a ULT)

█ I am crying my **eyes out**

(Go back to: Exodus 1:7; 2:1; 2:19; 2:24; 3:7; 3:16; 3:17; 3:18; 3:21; 4:14; 4:18; 5:7; 5:8; 5:9; 5:14; 5:23; 7:7; 7:23; 7:25; 8:28; 10:28; 10:29; 11:3; 11:7; 11:8; 12:36; 15:26; 17:12; 22:8; 22:24; 23:1; 23:26; 23:27; 24:3; 24:14; 24:17; 25:2; 25:27; 26:5; 26:6; 26:17; 28:41; 29:1; 29:9; 29:29; 29:33; 29:35; 29:38; 29:39; 29:41; 30:4; 30:8; 30:12; 30:13; 30:14; 31:2; 31:6; 32:1; 32:10; 32:11; 32:12; 32:19; 32:22; 32:26; 32:29; 33:12; 33:16; 33:17; 34:6; 34:9; 34:10; 34:12; 34:15; 34:27; 35:5; 35:34; 36:3; 36:4; 38:21; 38:26)

Information Structure

Description

Different languages arrange the parts of the sentence in different ways. In English, a sentence normally has the subject first, then the verb, then the object, then other modifiers, like this: Peter painted his house yesterday.

Many other languages normally put these things in a different order such as: Painted yesterday Peter his house.

Although all languages have a normal order for parts of a sentence, this order can change depending on what information the speaker or writer considers to be the most important.

Suppose that someone is answering the question, "What did Peter paint yesterday?" The person asking the question already knows all of the information in our sentence above except for the object, "his house." Therefore, that becomes the most important part of the information, and a person answering in English might say "His house is what Peter painted (yesterday)."

This puts the most important information first, which is normal for English. Many Other Languages would normally put the most important information last. In the flow of a text, the most important information is usually what the writer considers to be new information for the reader. In some languages the new information comes first, and in others it comes last.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- Different languages arrange the parts of a sentence in different ways. If you (the translator) copy the order of the parts of a sentence from the source, it may not make sense in your language.
- Different languages put important or new information in different places in the sentence. If you keep the important or new information in the same place that it had in the source language, it may be confusing or give the wrong message in your language.

Examples From the Bible

They all ate until they were satisfied. (Mark 6:42 ULT)

The parts of this sentence were in a different order in the original Greek source language. They were like this: And they ate all and they were satisfied.

In English, this means that the people ate everything. But the next verse says that they took up twelve baskets full of leftover pieces of food. In order for this to not be so confusing, the translators of the ULT put the parts of the sentence in the right order for English.

And the day began to end, and the twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so that, going into the surrounding villages and countryside, they may find lodging and food, because we are here in an desolate place." (Luke 9:12 ULT)

In this verse, what the disciples say to Jesus puts the important information first, that he should send the crowd away. In languages that put the important information last, people would understand that the reason that they gave, being in an isolated place, is the most important part of their message to Jesus. They might then think that the disciples are afraid of the spirits in that place, and that sending the people to buy food is a way to protect them from the spirits. That is the wrong message.

This page answers the question: *How do languages arrange the parts of a sentence?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-sentences\]\]](#)

Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers treated the false prophets in the same way. (Luke 6:26 ULT)

In this verse, the most important part of the information is first, that “woe” is coming on the people for what they are doing. The reason that supports that warning comes last. This could be confusing for people who expect the important information to come last.

Translation Strategies

- (1) Study how your language arranges the parts of a sentence, and use that order in your translation.
- (2) Study where your language puts the new or important information, and rearrange the order of information so that it follows the way it is done in your language.

Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Study how your language arranges the parts of a sentence, and use that order in your translation.

This is the verse in the original Greek order:

And he went out from there and came to the hometown his, and they followed him the disciples his. (Mark 6:1)

The ULT has put this into the normal order for English:

Now Jesus went out from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. (Mark 6:1 ULT)

- (2) Study where your language puts the new or important information and rearrange the order of information so that it follows the way it is done in your language.

And the day began to end, and the twelve came and said to him, “Send the crowd away so that, going into the surrounding villages and countryside, they may find lodging and food, because we are here in a desolate place.” (Luke 9:12 ULT)

If your language puts the important information last, you can change the order of the verse.

Now the day was about to come to an end, and the twelve came to him and said, “Because we are here in an desolate place, send the crowd away that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and food.”

Woe to you, when all men speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets. (Luke 6:26 ULT)

If your language puts the important information last, you can change the order of the verse.

When all men speak well of you, which is just as people’s ancestors treated the false prophets, then woe to you!

Next we recommend you learn about:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-order\]\]](#)
[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-distinguish\]\]](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 32:16](#); [33:16](#); [34:1](#); [34:13](#); [34:29](#); [35:29](#))

Introduction of a New Event

Description

When people tell a story, they tell about an event or a series of events. Often they put certain information at the beginning of the story, such as who the story is about, when it happened, and where it happened. This information that the writer gives before the events of the story begin is called the setting of the story. Some new events in a story also have a setting because they might involve new people, new times, and new places. In some languages, people also tell if they saw the event or heard about it from someone else.

When your people tell about events, what information do they give at the beginning? Is there a certain order that they put it in? In your translation, you will need to follow the way your language introduces new information at the beginning of a story or a new event rather than the way the source language did that. In this way your translation will sound natural and communicate clearly in your language.

This page answers the question: *How do we introduce a new event in a story?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/writing-intro\]\]](#)

[Order of Events](#)

Examples From the Bible

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, **there was a certain priest named Zechariah**, from the division of Abijah. And **his wife was** from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. (Luke 1:5 ULT)

The verses above introduce a story about Zechariah. The first bolded phrase tells when it happened, and the next two bolded phrases introduce the main people. The next two verses go on to explain that Zechariah and Elizabeth were old and did not have any children. All of this is the setting. Then the phrase “And it happened that” in Luke 1:8 helps to introduce the first event in this story:

And it happened that in his performing as priest before God, in the order of his division, according to the custom of the priesthood, he came up by lot to enter into the temple of the Lord to burn incense. (Luke 1:8-9 ULT)

The birth of Jesus Christ happened in the following way. His mother, Mary, was engaged to marry Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18 ULT)

The bolded sentence above makes it explicit that a story about Jesus is being introduced. The story will tell about how the birth of Jesus happened.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, learned men from the east arrived in Jerusalem. (Matthew 2:1 ULT)

The bolded phrase above shows that the events concerning the learned men happened **after** Jesus was born.

Now in those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea. (Matthew 3:1-22 ULT)

The bolded phrase above shows that John the Baptist came preaching around the time of the previous events. It is probably very general and refers to when Jesus lived in Nazareth.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River to John, to be baptized by him. (Matthew 3:13 ULT)

The word “then” shows that Jesus came to the Jordan River some time after the events in the previous verses.

Now there was **a man from the Pharisees whose name was Nicodemus, a Jewish leader**. This man came to Jesus at night. (John 3:1-2a ULT)

The author first introduced the new person and then told about what he did and when he did it. In some languages, it might be more natural to tell about the time first.

6 Noah was 600 years old when the flood came upon the earth. 7 Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives went into the ark together because of the waters of the flood. (Genesis 7:6-7 ULT)

Verse 6 is a statement of the events that happen in the rest of chapter 7. Chapter 6 already told about how God told Noah that there would be a flood, and how Noah prepared for it. Chapter 7 verse 6 introduces the part of the story that tells about Noah and his family and the animals going into the ship, the rain starting, and the rain flooding the earth. Some languages might need to make it clear that this verse simply introduces the event, or move this verse after verse 7. Verse 6 is not one of the events of the story. The people went into the ship before the flood came.

Translation Strategies

If the information given at the beginning of a new event is clear and natural to your readers, consider translating it as it is in the ULT or UST. If not, consider one of these strategies:

- (1) Put the information that introduces the event in the order that your people put it.
- (2) If readers would expect certain information but it is not in the Bible, consider using an indefinite word or phrase to fill in that information, such as: "another time" or "someone."
- (3) If the introduction is a summary of the whole event, use your language's way of showing that it is a summary.
- (4) If it would be strange in the target language to give a summary of the event at the beginning, indicate that the event would actually happen later in the story.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Put the information that introduces the event in the order that your people put it.

Now there was **a man from the Pharisees whose name was Nicodemus, a Jewish leader**. This man came to Jesus at night. (John 3:1-2a ULT)

There was a **man whose name was Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish Council**. One night he came to Jesus.

One night **a man named Nicodemus, who was a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish Council**, came to Jesus.

As he passed by, **he saw Levi the son of Alpheus, sitting** at the tax collector's tent, and he said to him ... (Mark 2:14a ULT)

As he passed by, **Levi the son of Alpheus was sitting** at the tax collector's tent. Jesus saw him and and said to him ...

As he passed by, **there was a man sitting** at the tax collector's tent. His name was Levi, and he was the son of Alpheus. Jesus saw him and said to him ...

As he passed by, **there was a tax collector** sitting at the tax collector’s tent. His name was Levi, and he was the son of Alpheus. Jesus saw him and said to him ...

(2) If readers would expect certain information, but it is not in the Bible, consider using an indefinite word or phrase such as “another time,” or “someone.”

Noah was 600 years old when the flood came upon the earth. (Genesis 7:6 ULT) — If people expect to be told something about when the new event happened, the phrase “after that” can help them see that it happened after the events already mentioned.

After that, when Noah was 600 years old, the flood came upon the earth.

Again he began to teach beside the sea. (Mark 4:1a ULT) — In chapter 3 Jesus was teaching at someone’s house. Readers may need to be told that this new event happened at another time, or that Jesus actually went to the sea.

Another time Jesus began to teach people again beside the sea.

Jesus went to the sea and **began to teach people again** there.

(3) If the introduction is a summary of the whole event, use your language’s way of showing that it is a summary.

Noah was 600 years old when the flood came upon the earth. (Genesis 7:6 ULT)

Now this is what happened when Noah was 600 years old and the flood came upon the earth.

This part tells about what happened when the flood came upon the earth. It happened when Noah was 600 years old.

(4) If it would be strange in the target language to give a summary of the event at the beginning, show that the event will actually happen later in the story.

Noah was 600 years old when the flood came upon the earth. Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives went into the ark together because of the waters of the flood. (Genesis 7:6-7 ULT)

Now this is what happened when Noah was 600 years old. Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives went into the ark together because **God had said that the waters of the flood would come.**

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Background Information](#)

[Introduction of New and Old Participants](#)

(Go back to: Exodus 1:8; 1:15; 2:1; 2:11; 2:16; 2:23; 3:1; 4:24; 4:27; 4:29; 5:1; 5:10; 5:15; 5:20; 6:2; 6:28; 7:8; 7:14; 7:25; 8:12; 8:16; 8:20; 8:24; 8:30; 9:1; 9:8; 9:13; 9:22; 9:27; 10:12; 10:21; 12:21; 13:17; 16:22; 17:1; 17:8; 18:13; 24:1; 24:3; 24:9; 29:1; 32:1; 32:7; 33:12; 34:29; 39:33; 40:1; 40:16)

Introduction of New and Old Participants

Description

The first time that people or things are mentioned in a story, they are **new participants**. After that, whenever they are mentioned, they are **old participants**.

Now **there was a man from the Pharisees whose name was Nicodemus** ... **This man** came to Jesus at night ... Jesus replied and said to **him** ... (John 3:1, 2a, 3a)

The first bolded phrase introduces Nicodemus as a new participant. After being introduced, he is then referred to as “This man” and “him” when he has become an old participant.

This page answers the question: *Why cannot the readers of my translation understand who the author was writing about?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-partsofspeech]]
[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/writing-intro]]

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

In order to make your translation clear and natural, it is necessary to refer to the participants in such a way that people will know if they are new participants or participants that they have already read about. Different languages have different ways of doing this. You must follow the way that your language does this, not the way that the source language does this.

Examples From the Bible

New Participants

Often the most important new participant is introduced with a phrase that says that he existed, such as “There was a man,” as in the example below. The phrase “There was” tells us that this man existed. The word “a” in “a man” tells us that the author is speaking about him for the first time. The rest of the sentence tells where this man was from, who his family was, and what his name was.

Now there was a man from Zorah, of the families of the Danites, and his name was Manoah. (Judges 13:2a ULT)

A new participant who is not the most important participant is often introduced in relation to the more important person who was already introduced. In the example below, Manoah’s wife is simply referred to as “his wife.” This phrase shows her relationship to him.

Now there was one man from Zorah, of the families of the Danites, and his name was Manoah. **His wife** was barren and she had never given birth. (Judges 13:2 ULT)

Sometimes a new participant is introduced simply by name because the author assumes that the readers know who the person is. In the first verse of 1 Kings, the author assumes that his readers know who King David is, so there is no need to explain who he is.

Now King David was old, he had advanced in the days, and they covered him with the garments, but it was not warm enough for him. (1 Kings 1:1 ULT)

Old Participants

A person who has already been brought into the story can be referred to with a pronoun after that. In the example below, Manoah is referred to with the pronoun “his,” and his wife is referred to with the pronoun “she.”

His wife was barren and she had never given birth. (Judges 13:2 ULT)

Old participants can also be referred to in other ways, depending on what is happening in the story. In the example below, the story is about bearing a son, and Manoah’s wife is referred to by the noun phrase “the wife.”

The angel of Yahweh appeared to the wife and he said to her ... (Judges 13:3a ULT)

If the old participant has not been mentioned for a while, or if there could be confusion between participants, the author may use the participant’s name again. In the example below, Manoah is referred to by his name, which the author has not used since verse 2.

Then Manoah prayed to Yahweh. (Judges 13:8a ULT)

Some languages place an affix on the verb that tells something about the subject. In some of those languages, people do not always use noun phrases or pronouns for old participants when they are the subject of the sentence. The marker on the verb gives enough information for the listener to understand who the subject is. (See Verbs.)

Translation Strategies

- (1) If the participant is new, use one of your language’s ways of introducing new participants.
- (2) If it is not clear to whom a pronoun refers, use a noun phrase or name.
- (3) If an old participant is referred to by name or a noun phrase, and people wonder if this is another new participant, try using a pronoun instead. If a pronoun is not needed because people would understand it clearly from the context, then leave out the pronoun.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) If the participant is new, use one of your language’s ways of introducing new participants.

Then Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated as Son of Encouragement), a Levite from Cyprus by birth ... (Acts 4:36-37 ULT) — Starting the sentence with Joseph’s name when he has not been introduced yet might be confusing in some languages.

There was a man from Cyprus who was a Levite. His name was Joseph, and he was given the name Barnabas by the apostles (that is, being interpreted, Son of Encouragement). There was a Levite from Cyprus whose name was Joseph. The apostles gave him the name Barnabas, which means Son of encouragement.

- (2) If it is not clear who a pronoun refers to, use a noun phrase or name.

And it happened that when he was praying in a certain place, when he stopped, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples.” (Luke 11:1 ULT) — Since this is the first verse in a chapter, readers might wonder who “he” refers to.

It happened when Jesus finished praying in a certain place, that one of his disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.”

(3) If an old participant is referred to by name or a noun phrase, and people wonder if this is another new participant, try using a pronoun instead. If a pronoun is not needed because people would understand it clearly from the context, then leave out the pronoun.

Joseph's master took Joseph and put him in prison, in the place where all the king's prisoners were put, and Joseph stayed there. (Genesis 39:20) — Since Joseph is the main person in the story, some languages might prefer the pronoun.

Joseph's master took **him** and put **him** in prison, in the place where all the king's prisoners were put, and **he** stayed there in the prison.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Pronouns — When to Use Them](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:8](#); [1:15](#); [2:1](#); [2:5](#); [2:9](#); [2:16](#); [2:17](#); [2:18](#); [4:18](#); [4:25](#); [4:27](#); [5:1](#); [5:13](#); [17:8](#); [17:9](#); [17:10](#); [24:13](#); [32:17](#); [33:11](#))

Irony

Description

Irony is a figure of speech in which the sense that the speaker intends to communicate is actually the opposite of the literal meaning of the words. Sometimes a person does this by using someone else's words, but in a way that communicates that he does not agree with them. People do this to emphasize how different something is from what it should be, or how someone else's belief about something is wrong or foolish. It is often humorous.

This page answers the question: *What is irony and how can I translate it?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro]]

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "People who are well do not have need of a physician, but those who have sickness. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
(Luke 5:31-32 ULT)

When Jesus spoke of "righteous people," he was not referring to people who were truly righteous, but to people who wrongly believed that they were righteous. By using irony, Jesus communicated that they were wrong to think that they were better than others and did not need to repent.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

If someone does not realize that a speaker is using irony, he will think that the speaker actually believes what he is saying. He will understand the passage to mean the opposite of what it was intended to mean.

Examples From the Bible

How well you reject the commandment of God so that you may keep your tradition! (Mark 7:9b ULT)

Here Jesus praises the Pharisees for doing something that is obviously wrong. Through irony, he communicates the opposite of praise: He communicates that the Pharisees, who take great pride in keeping the commandments, are so far from God that they do not even recognize that their traditions are breaking God's commandments. The use of irony makes the Pharisee's sin more obvious and startling.

"Present your case," says Yahweh; "present your best arguments for your idols," says the King of Jacob. **"Let them bring us their own arguments; have them come forward and declare to us what will happen, so we may know these things well. Have them tell us of earlier predictive declarations, so we can reflect on them and know how they were fulfilled."** (Isaiah 41:21-22 ULT)

People worshiped idols as if their idols had knowledge or power, and Yahweh was angry at them for doing that. So he used irony and challenged their idols to tell what would happen in the future. He knew that the idols could not do this, but by speaking as if they could, he mocked the idols, making their inability more obvious, and rebuked the people for worshipping them.

Can you lead light and darkness to their places of work?
Can you find the way back to their houses for them?
Undoubtedly you know, for you were born then; "the number of your days is so large!" (Job 38:20-21 ULT)

Job thought that he was wise. Yahweh used irony to show Job that he was not so wise. The two phrases in bold above are irony. They emphasize the opposite of what they say, because they are so obviously false. They

emphasize that Job could not possibly answer God's questions about the creation of light because Job was not born until many, many years later.

Already you are satisfied! Already you have become rich! **You began to reign** apart from us, and I wish you really did reign, so that we also might reign with you. (1 Corinthians 4:8 ULT)

The Corinthians considered themselves to be very wise, self-sufficient, and not in need of any instruction from the Apostle Paul. Paul used irony, speaking as if he agreed with them, to show how proudly they were acting and how far from being wise they really were.

Translation Strategies

If the irony would be understood correctly in your language, translate it as it is stated. If not, here are some other strategies.

(1) Translate it in a way that shows that the speaker is saying what someone else believes.

(2) The irony is **not** found in the literal words of the speaker, but instead the true meaning is found in the opposite of the literal meaning of the speaker's words.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Translate it in a way that shows that the speaker is saying what someone else believes.

How well you reject the commandment of God so that you may keep your tradition! (Mark 7:9a ULT)

You think that you are doing well when you reject God's commandment so you may keep your tradition!

You act like it is good to reject God's commandment so you may keep your tradition!

I did not come to call **the righteous**, but sinners to repentance. (Luke 5:32 ULT)

I did not come to call **people who think that they are righteous** to repentance, but to call sinners to repentance.

(2) Translate the actual, intended meaning of the statement of irony.

How well you reject the commandment of God so that you may keep your tradition! (Mark 7:9a ULT)

You are doing a terrible thing when you reject the commandment of God so you may keep your tradition!

"Present your case," says Yahweh; "present your best arguments for your idols," says the King of Jacob. "**Let them bring us their own arguments; have them come forward and declare to us what will happen, so we may know these things well. Have them tell us of earlier predictive declarations, so we can reflect on them and know how they were fulfilled.**" (Isaiah 41:21-22 ULT)

'Present your case,' says Yahweh; 'present your best arguments for your idols,' says the King of Jacob. Your idols **cannot bring us their own arguments or come forward to declare to us what will happen** so we may know these things well. We cannot hear them because **they cannot speak** to tell us their earlier predictive declarations, so we cannot reflect on them and know how they were fulfilled.

Can you lead light and darkness to their places of work?
Can you find the way back to their houses for them?
**Undoubtedly you know, for you were born then;
the number of your days is so large!** (Job 38:20-21 ULT)

Can you lead light and darkness to their places of work? Can you find the way back to their houses for them? **You act like you know how light and darkness were created, as if you were there; as if you are as old as creation, but you are not!**

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Litotes](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:14; 8:9](#))

Kinship

Description

This page answers the question: *What are kinship terms and how can I translate them?*

Kinship terms refer to those words used to describe people related to one another in familial relationships. These terms vary widely in their specificity from language to language. They range from the (Western) nuclear or immediate family (father-son, husband-wife) out to broad clan relationships in other cultures.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Depending on the language translators may need to use specific terms to designate the accurate kinship relationship. In some languages a different term may be used based on siblings' birth order. In others, the side of the family (father's or mother's), age, marital status, etc. may determine the term used. Different terms may be used based on the gender of the speaker and/or addressee. Translators may need to make sure they know the exact relationship between two related people in the Bible to find the correct term. Sometimes these terms are difficult even for native speakers to remember and translators may need to seek community help in finding the correct term. Another complicating issue is that the Bible may not give enough information about the relationship for translators to determine the correct term in the language being translated into. In this case, translators will have to use a more general term or simply pick a satisfactory term based on the limited information available.

Sometimes terms that seem like kinship terms are used for people who are not necessarily related. For instance, an older person may refer to a younger man or woman as "my son" or "my daughter."

Examples from the Bible

Then Yahweh said to Cain, "Where is Abel **your brother?**" He said, "I do not know. Am I **my brother's** keeper?" (Genesis 4:9 ULT)

Abel was Cain's younger brother.

Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field to his flock and said to them, "I see **your father's** attitude toward me has changed, but the God of my father has been with me." (Genesis 31:4-5 ULT)

Jacob is referring here to his father-in-law. In some languages there may be a specific term for a man's father-in-law, however, in this case it is better to retain the form **your father** as Jacob may be using it to distance himself from Laban.

And Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro **his father-in-law**, the priest of Midian. (Exodus 3:1a ULT)

Unlike the previous instance, if your language has a term for a man's father-in-law this is a good place to use it.

And **his sister** stationed herself at a distance to know what would be done to him. (Exodus 2:4 ULT)

From context we know that this was Miriam, Moses's older sister. In some languages this may require a specific term. In others, the term for older sister may be only used when the younger sibling is addressing and/or referring to his or her sister.

Then she and **her daughters-in-law** arose to return from the fields of Moab (Ruth 1:6a ULT)

Ruth & Orpah are Naomi's daughters-in-law.

Then she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has turned back to her people and to her gods.” (Ruth 1:15 ULT)

Orpah had been the wife of Ruth’s husband’s brother. This may be a different term in your language than if she had been Ruth’s husband’s sister.

Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Will you not listen to me, **my daughter?**” (Ruth 2:8a ULT)

Boaz is not Ruth’s father; he is simply using the term to address a younger woman.

And behold, **your relative** Elizabeth—she also has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren. (Luke 1:36 ULT)

While the KJV translated this as **cousin**, the term simply means a related woman.

Translation Strategies

- (1) Find out the exact relationship specified and translate using the term your language uses.
- (2) If the text does not specify the relationship as clearly as your language would, either:
 - (a) settle on a more general term.
 - (b) use a specific term if required by your language, choosing the one that is most likely to be correct.

Translation Strategies Applied

This is not an issue in English, so the following illustrations draw on other languages.

In Korean, there are several terms for brother and sister; the use of them depends on the speaker’s (or referent’s) sex and birth order. Examples are from the Korean Living Bible, found on biblegateway.com

Genesis 30:1 Rachel is jealous of her “eonni,” which is the term a woman uses for her older sister.

Genesis 34:31 Simeon and Levi refer to Dinah as “nui,” a general term for sister.

Genesis 37:16 Joseph refers to his brothers as “hyeong,” which is the term a man uses for his older brother(s).

Genesis 45:12 Joseph refers to Benjamin as “dongsaeng,” which roughly means sibling, usually younger.

In Russian, in-law terms are complex. For instance, “nevéstka” is the term for a brother’s (or brother-in-law’s) wife; a woman uses the same term for her daughter-in-law but her husband would call the same daughter-in-law “snoxá.” Examples from the Russian Synodal Version.

Genesis 38:25 Tamar sends a message to her father-in-law, Judah. The term used is “svekor.” This is used for a woman’s husband’s father.

Exodus 3:1 Moses is watching his father-in-law’s herd. The term used is “test’.” This is used for a man’s wife’s father.

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:6](#); [2:4](#); [4:14](#); [4:18](#); [6:20](#); [7:2](#); [Notes](#); [18:1](#); [28:1](#); [28:41](#))

Litany

Description

A litany is a figure of speech in which the various components of a thing are listed in a series of very similar statements. The speaker does this to indicate that what he is saying should be understood as comprehensive and without exceptions.

This page answers the question: *What is the figure of speech called litany?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro\]\]](#)

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Many languages do not use litanies, and readers could be confused by them. They may wonder why the speaker seems to be saying the same thing over and over again.

Examples From the Bible

Though they dig into Sheol, there my hand will take them. Though they climb up to heaven, there I will bring them down. Though they hide on the top of Carmel, there I will search and take them. Though they are hidden from my sight in the bottom of the sea, there will I give orders to the serpent, and it will bite them. Though they go into captivity, driven by their enemies before them, there will I give orders to the sword, and it will kill them. (Amos 9:2-4 ULT)

In this passage Yahweh is telling the people of Israel that when he punishes them, none of them will escape.

But you should not have looked on the day of your brother, on the day of his misfortune. And you should not have rejoiced over the sons of Judah in the day of their perishing. And you should not have made your mouth great in a day of distress. You should not have entered the gate of my people in the day of their calamity. Yes, you! You should not have looked on his evil in the day of his calamity. And you women should not have looted his wealth in the day of his calamity. And you should not have stood at the crossroads to cut down his fugitives. And you should not have delivered up his survivors in a day of distress. (Obadiah 1:12-14)

In this passage Yahweh is telling the people of Edom that they should have helped the people of Judah when they were conquered by the Babylonians.

Translation Strategies

If the litany is understood as it is in the ULT, then translate the litany as it is. If it is not understood, then try one or more of the following strategies.

- (1) Often in the Bible there will be a general statement at the beginning or end of a litany that sums up its overall meaning. You can format that statement in a way that will show that it is a summary statement that gives the meaning of the litany.
- (2) You can put each sentence of the litany on a separate line. Also, if each sentence in the litany has two parts, you can format the litany so that the equivalent parts of each sentence line up. Use this or any other type of formatting that will show that each sentence is reinforcing the same meaning.
- (3) You can eliminate words like “and,” “but,” and “or” at the beginning of sentences so that it will be clearer that the component parts of the litany are all being listed in a row.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) combined with (3):

Often in the Bible there will be a general statement at the beginning or end of a litany that sums up its overall meaning. You can format that statement in a way that will show that it is a summary statement that gives the meaning of the litany;

You can eliminate words like “and,” “but,” and “or” at the beginning of sentences so that it will be clearer that the component parts of the litany are all being listed in a row.

You did nothing to help the Israelites when strangers carried away their wealth. They conquered all the cities of Judah, and they even plundered Jerusalem. And you were just as bad as those foreigners, because you did nothing to help:

You should not have looked on the day of your brother, on the day of his misfortune. You should not have rejoiced over the sons of Judah in the day of their perishing. You should not have made your mouth great in a day of distress. You should not have entered the gate of my people in the day of their calamity. Yes, you! You should not have looked on his evil in the day of his calamity. You women should not have looted his wealth in the day of his calamity. You should not have stood at the crossroads to cut down his fugitives. You should not have delivered up his survivors in a day of distress. (Obadiah 1:11-14)

In the above example, verse 11 provides the summary and meaning for the litany that follows in verses 12-14.

(1) combined with (2):

Often in the Bible there will be a general statement at the beginning or end of a litany that sums up its overall meaning. You can format that statement in a way that will show that it is a summary statement that gives the meaning of the litany;

You can put each sentence of the litany on a separate line. Also, if each sentence in the litany has two parts, you can format the litany so that the equivalent parts of each sentence line up. Use this or any other type of formatting that will show that each sentence is reinforcing the same meaning.

Not one of them will get away, not one of them will escape:

Though they dig into Sheol,	there my hand will take them.
Though they climb up to heaven,	there I will bring them down.
Though they hide on the top of Carmel,	there I will search and take them.
Though they are hidden from my sight in the bottom of the sea,	there will I give orders to the serpent, and it will bite them.
Though they go into captivity, driven by their enemies before them,	there will I give orders to the sword, and it will kill them.

(Amos 9:1b-4 ULT)

In the above example, the sentence before the litany explains its overall meaning. That sentence can be placed as an introduction. The second half of each sentence can be formatted in a descending staircase pattern as above, or

lined up evenly like the first half of each sentence, or in another way. Use whatever format best shows that these sentences are all communicating the same truth, that it is not possible to escape from God.

(Go back to: [Exodus 34:7; 35:22](#))

Litotes

Description

Litotes is a figure of speech in which the speaker expresses a strong positive meaning by negating a word or phrase that means the opposite of the meaning that he intends. For example, someone could intend to communicate that something is extremely good by describing it as "not bad." The difference between a litotes and a [double negative](#) is that a litotes heightens the positive meaning beyond what a plain positive statement would do, and a double negative does not. In the example above, the literal meaning of "not bad," taken as a plain double negative, would be "acceptable" or even "good." But if the speaker intended it as a litotes, then the meaning is "very good" or "extremely good."

This page answers the question: *What is litotes?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro]]

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Some languages do not use litotes. People who speak those languages might not understand that a statement using litotes actually strengthens the positive meaning. Instead, they might think that it weakens or even cancels the positive meaning.

Examples From the Bible

For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was **not useless**, (1 Thessalonians 2:1 ULT)

By using litotes, Paul emphasized that his visit with them was **very** useful.

Now when it became day, there was **no small disturbance** among the soldiers over what therefore had happened to Peter. (Acts 12:18 ULT)

By using litotes, Luke emphasized that there was a **lot** of excitement or anxiety among the soldiers about what happened to Peter. (Peter had been in prison, and even though there were soldiers guarding him, he escaped when an angel let him out. So they were very agitated.)

But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are **not the least** among the leaders of Judah, for from you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. (Matthew 2:6 ULT)

By using litotes, the prophet emphasized that Bethlehem would be a **very important city**.

Translation Strategies

If the litotes would be understood correctly, consider using it.

(1) If the meaning with the negative would not be clear, give the **positive** meaning in a strong way.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) If the meaning with the negative would not be clear, give the **positive** meaning in a strong way.

For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was **not useless**. (1 Thessalonians 2:1 ULT)

“For you yourselves know, brothers, our visit to you **did much good**.”

Now when it became day, there was **no small disturbance** among the soldiers over what therefore had happened to Peter. (Acts 12:18 ULT)

“Now when it became day, there was **great excitement** among the soldiers, regarding what had happened to Peter.”

or:

“Now when it became day, the soldiers were **very concerned** because of what had happened to Peter.”

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:21](#); [9:6](#); [9:7](#); [9:28](#); [14:28](#))

Merism

Definition

Merism is a figure of speech in which a person refers to something by speaking of two extreme parts of it. By referring to the extreme parts, the speaker intends to include also everything in between those parts.

“I am **the alpha and the omega**,” says the Lord God,
“the one who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Revelation 1:8 ULT)

I am **the alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end**.
(Revelation 22:13, ULT)

This page answers the question: *What does the word merism mean and how can I translate phrases that have it?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro\]\]](#)

Alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. This is a merism that includes everything from the beginning to the end. It means eternal.

... I praise you, Father, Lord of **heaven and earth** ..., (Matthew 11:25b ULT)

Heaven and earth is a merism that includes everything that exists.

Reason This is a Translation Issue

Some languages do not use merism. The readers of those languages may think that the phrase only applies to the items mentioned. They may not realize that it refers to those two things and everything in between.

Examples From the Bible

From the rising of the sun to its setting, Yahweh’s name should be praised. (Psalm 113:3 ULT)

This bolded phrase is a merism because it speaks of the east and the west and everywhere in between. It means “everywhere.”

He will bless those who honor him, both **young and old**. (Psalm 115:13)

The bolded phrase is merism because it speaks of old people and young people and everyone in between. It means “everyone.”

Translation Strategies

If the merism would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here are other options:

- (1) Identify what the merism refers to without mentioning the parts.
- (2) Identify what the merism refers to and include the parts.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Identify what the merism refers to without mentioning the parts.

I praise you, Father, Lord of **heaven and earth**. (Matthew 11:25b ULT)

I praise you, Father, Lord of **everything**.

From the rising of the sun to its setting, Yahweh's name should be praised. (Psalm 113:3 ULT)

In all places, people should praise Yahweh's name.

(2) Identify what the merism refers to and include the parts.

I praise you, Father, Lord of **heaven and earth**. (Matthew 11:25b ULT)

I praise you, Father, Lord of **everything, including both what is in heaven and what is on earth**.

He will bless those who honor him, both **young and old**. (Psalm 115:13 ULT)

He will bless **all those** who honor him, regardless of whether they are **young or old**.

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:12](#); [3:15](#); [4:10](#); [7:19](#); [8:3](#); [8:5](#); [8:9](#); [8:11](#); [8:13](#); [8:21](#); [8:24](#); [8:29](#); [8:31](#); [9:3](#); [9:25](#); [11:5](#); [11:6](#); [12:29](#); [13:10](#); [13:15](#); [20:4](#); [23:25](#))

Metaphor

Description

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which someone speaks of one thing as if it were a different thing because he wants people to think about how those two things are alike.

For example, someone might say, “The girl I love is a red rose.”

A girl and a rose are very different things, but the speaker considers that they are alike in some way. The hearer’s task is to understand in what way they are alike.

This page answers the question: *What is a metaphor and how can I translate a Bible passage that has one?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro\]\]](#)

[Simile](#)

The Parts of a Metaphor

The example above shows us that a metaphor has three parts. In this metaphor, the speaker is talking about “the girl I love.” This is the **Topic**. The speaker wants the hearer to think about what is similar between her and “a red rose.” The red rose is the **Image** to which he compares the girl. Most probably, he wants the hearer to consider that they are both beautiful. This is the **Idea** that the girl and the rose both share, and so we may also call it the **Point of Comparison**.

Every metaphor has three parts:

- The **Topic**, the item being immediately discussed by the writer/speaker.
- The **Image**, the physical item (object, event, action, etc.) which the speaker uses to describe the topic.
- The **Idea**, the abstract concept or quality that the physical **Image** brings to the mind of the hearer when he thinks of how the **Image** and the **Topic** are similar. Often, the **Idea** of a metaphor is not explicitly stated in the Bible, but it is only implied from the context. The hearer or reader usually needs to think of the **Idea** himself.

Using these terms, we can say that a metaphor is a figure of speech that uses a physical **Image** to apply an abstract **Idea** to the speaker’s **Topic**.

Usually, a writer or speaker uses a metaphor in order to express something about a **Topic**, with at least one **Point of Comparison (Idea)** between the **Topic** and the **Image**. Often in metaphors, the **Topic** and the **Image** are explicitly stated, but the **Idea** is only implied. The writer/speaker often uses a metaphor in order to invite the readers/listeners to think about the similarity between the **Topic** and the **Image** and to figure out for themselves the **Idea** that is being communicated.

Speakers often use metaphors in order to strengthen their message, to make their language more vivid, to express their feelings better, to say something that is hard to say in any other way, or to help people remember their message.

Sometimes speakers use metaphors that are very common in their language. However, sometimes speakers use metaphors that are uncommon, and even some metaphors that are unique. When a metaphor has become very common in a language, often it becomes a “passive” metaphor, in contrast to uncommon metaphors, which we describe as being “active.” Passive metaphors and active metaphors each present a different kind of translation problem, which we will discuss below.

Passive Metaphors

A passive metaphor is a metaphor that has been used so much in the language that its speakers no longer regard it as one concept standing for another. Linguists often call these “dead metaphors.” Passive metaphors are extremely common. Examples in English include the terms “table **leg**,” “family **tree**,” “book **leaf**” (meaning a page in

a book), or the word “crane” (meaning a large machine for lifting heavy loads). English speakers simply think of these words as having more than one meaning. Examples of passive metaphors in Biblical Hebrew include using the word “hand” to represent “power,” using the word “face” to represent “presence,” and speaking of emotions or moral qualities as if they were “clothing.”

Patterned Pairs of Concepts Acting as Metaphors

Many ways of metaphorical speaking depend on pairs of concepts, where one underlying concept frequently stands for a different underlying concept. For example, in English, the direction “up” (the Image) often represents the concepts of “more” or “better” (the Idea). Because of this pair of underlying concepts, we can make sentences such as “The price of gasoline is going **up**,” “A **highly** intelligent man,” and also the opposite kind of idea: “The temperature is going **down**,” and “I am feeling very **low**.”

Patterned pairs of concepts are constantly used for metaphorical purposes in the world’s languages because they serve as convenient ways to organize thought. In general, people like to speak of abstract qualities (such as power, presence, emotions, and moral qualities) as if they were body parts, or as if they were objects that could be seen or held, or as if they were events that could be watched as they happened.

When these metaphors are used in normal ways, it is rare that the speaker and audience regard them as figurative speech. Examples of metaphors in English that go unrecognized are:

- “Turn the heat **up**.” More is spoken of as up.
- “Let us **go ahead** with our debate.” Doing what was planned is spoken of as walking or advancing.
- “You **defend** your theory well.” Argument is spoken of as war.
- “A **flow** of words.” Words are spoken of as liquids.

English speakers do not view these as metaphorical expressions or figures of speech, so it would be wrong to translate them into other languages in a way that would lead people to pay special attention to them as figurative speech. For a description of important patterns of this kind of metaphor in biblical languages, please see [Biblical Imagery — Common Patterns](#) and the pages it will direct you to.

When translating something that is a passive metaphor into another language, do not treat it as a metaphor. Instead, just use the best expression for that thing or concept in the target language.

Active Metaphors

These are metaphors that people recognize as one concept standing for another concept, or one thing for another thing. Metaphors make people think about how the one thing is like the other thing, because in most ways the two things are very different. People also easily recognize these metaphors as giving strength and unusual qualities to the message. For this reason, people pay attention to these metaphors. For example,

But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.
(Malachi 4:2a ULT)

Here, God speaks about his salvation as if it were the sun rising in order to shine its rays on the people whom he loves. He also speaks of the sun’s rays as if they were wings. Also, he speaks of these wings as if they were bringing medicine that would heal his people. Here is another example:

And he said to them, “Go and tell that fox ...” (Luke 13:32a ULT)

Here, “that fox” refers to King Herod. The people listening to Jesus certainly understood that Jesus was intending for them to apply certain characteristics of a fox to Herod. They probably understood that Jesus intended to communicate that Herod was evil, either in a cunning way or as someone who was destructive, murderous, or who took things that did not belong to him, or all of these.

Active metaphors require the translator’s special care to make a correct translation. To do so, you need to understand the parts of a metaphor and how they work together to produce meaning.

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will not be hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35 ULT)

In this metaphor, Jesus called himself the bread of life. The **Topic** is “I” (meaning Jesus himself) and the **Image** is “bread.” Bread was the primary food that people ate in that place and time. The similarity between bread and Jesus is that people need both to live. Just as people need to eat food in order to have physical life, people need to trust in Jesus in order to have eternal life. The **Idea** of the metaphor is “life.” In this case, Jesus stated the central Idea of the metaphor, but often the Idea is only implied.

Purposes of Metaphor

- One purpose of metaphor is to teach people about something that they do not know (the **Topic**) by showing that it is like something that they already do know (the **Image**).
- Another purpose is to emphasize that something (the **Topic**) has a particular quality (the **Idea**) or to show that it has that quality in an extreme way.
- Another purpose is to lead people to feel the same way about the **Topic** as they would feel about the **Image**.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- People may not recognize that something is a metaphor. In other words, they may mistake a metaphor for a literal statement, and thus, misunderstand it.
- People may not be familiar with the thing that is used as an image, and so, not be able to understand the metaphor.
- If the topic is not stated, people may not know what the topic is.
- People may not know the points of comparison that the speaker wants them to understand. If they fail to think of these points of comparison, they will not understand the metaphor.
- People may think that they understand the metaphor, but they do not. This can happen when they apply points of comparison from their own culture, rather than from the biblical culture.

Translation Principles

- Make the meaning of a metaphor as clear to the target audience as it was to the original audience.
- Do not make the meaning of a metaphor more clear to the target audience than you think it was to the original audience.

Examples From the Bible

Listen to this word, **you cows of Bashan**, (Amos 4:1q ULT)

In this metaphor Amos speaks to the upper-class women of Samaria (“you,” the Topic) as if they were cows (the Image). Amos does not say what similarity(s) he intends between these women and cows. He wants the reader to think of them, and he fully expects that readers from his culture will easily do so. From the context, we can see that he means that the women are like cows in that they are fat and interested only in feeding themselves. If we were to apply similarities from a different culture, such as that cows are sacred and should be worshiped, we would get the wrong meaning from this verse.

NOTE: Amos does not actually mean that the women are cows. He speaks to them as human beings.

Yet, Yahweh, you are our father; **we are the clay. You are our potter**; and we all are the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:8 ULT)

The example above has two related metaphors. The Topic(s) are “we” and “you,” and the Image(s) are “clay” and “potter.” The similarity between a potter and God is the fact that both make what they wish out of their material. The potter makes what he wishes out of the clay, and God makes what he wishes out of his people. The Idea being expressed by the comparison between the potter’s clay and “us” is that **neither the clay nor God’s people have a right to complain about what they are becoming.**

Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of **the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.**” The disciples reasoned among themselves and said, “It is because we did not take bread.” (Matthew 16:6-7 ULT)

Jesus used a metaphor here, but his disciples did not realize it. When he said “yeast,” they thought he was talking about bread, but “yeast” was the Image in his metaphor, and the Topic was the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Since the disciples (the original audience) did not understand what Jesus meant, it would not be good to state clearly here what Jesus meant.

Translation Strategies

If people would understand the metaphor in the same way that the original readers would have understood it, go ahead and use it. Be sure to test the translation to make sure that people do understand it in the right way.

If people do not or would not understand it, here are some other strategies.

- (1) If the metaphor is a common expression in the source language or expresses a patterned pair of concepts in a biblical language (that is, it is a passive metaphor), then express the **Idea** in the simplest way preferred by your language.
- (2) If the metaphor seems to be an active metaphor, you can translate it literally **if you think that the target language also uses this metaphor in the same way to mean the same thing as in the Bible.** If you do this, be sure to test it to make sure that the language community understands it correctly.
- (3) If the target audience does not realize that it is a metaphor, then change the metaphor to a simile. Some languages do this by adding words such as “like” or “as.” See [Simile](#).
- (4) If the target audience would not know the **Image**, see [Translate Unknowns](#) for ideas on how to translate that image.
- (5) If the target audience would not use that **Image** for that meaning, use an image from your own culture instead. Be sure that it is an image that could have been possible in Bible times.
- (6) If the target audience would not know what the **Topic** is, then state the topic clearly. (However, do not do this if the original audience did not know what the Topic was.)
- (7) If the target audience would not know the intended similarity (the **Idea**) between the topic and the image, then state it clearly.
- (8) If none of these strategies is satisfactory, then simply state the **Idea** plainly without using a metaphor.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) If the metaphor is a common expression in the source language or expresses a patterned pair of concepts in a biblical language (that is, a passive metaphor), then express the Idea in the simplest way preferred by your language.

Then, see, one of the leaders of the synagogue, named Jairus, came, and when he saw him, **fell at his feet.** (Mark 5:22 ULT)

Then one of the leaders of the synagogue, named Jairus, came, and when he saw him, **immediately bowed down in front of him.**

(2) If the metaphor seems to be an active metaphor, you can translate it literally **if you think that the target language also uses this metaphor in the same way to mean the same thing as in the Bible.** If you do this, be sure to test it to make sure that the language community understands it correctly.

But Jesus said to them, “He wrote this commandment to you because of your **hardness of heart.**” (Mark 10:5 ULT)

It was because of your **hard hearts** that he wrote you this law.

We made no change to this one, but it must be tested to make sure that the target audience correctly understands this metaphor.

(3) If the target audience does not realize that it is a metaphor, then change the metaphor to a simile. Some languages do this by adding words such as “like” or “as.”

Yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we **are the clay.** You **are our potter;** and we all are the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:8 ULT)

And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are **like** clay. You are **like** a potter; and we all are the work of your hand.

(4) If the target audience would not know the **Image**, see [Translate Unknowns](#) for ideas on how to translate that image.

Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you **to kick against a goad.** (Acts 26:14b ULT)

Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you **to kick against a pointed stick.**

(5) If the target audience would not use that **Image** for that meaning, use an image from your own culture instead. Be sure that it is an image that could have been possible in Bible times.

Yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the **clay.** You are our **potter;** and we all are the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:8 ULT)

“And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the **wood.** You are our **carver;** and we all are the work of your hand.”

“And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the **string.** You are the **weaver;** and we all are the work of your hand.”

(6) If the target audience would not know what the **Topic** is, then state the topic clearly. (However, do not do this if the original audience did not know what the topic was.)

Yahweh lives; may **my rock** be praised. May the God of my salvation be exalted. (Psalm 18:46 ULT)

Yahweh lives; **He is my rock**. May he be praised. May the God of my salvation be exalted.

(7) If the target audience would not know the intended similarity between the Topic and the Image, then state it clearly.

Yahweh lives; may **my rock** be praised. May the God of my salvation be exalted. (Psalm 18:46 ULT)

Yahweh lives; may he be praised because he is the rock **under which I can hide from my enemies**. May the God of my salvation be exalted.

Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you **to kick against a goad**. (Acts 26:14 ULT)

Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? You **fight against me and hurt yourself like an ox that kicks against its owner's pointed stick**.

(8) If none of these strategies are satisfactory, then simply state the idea plainly without using a metaphor.

I will make you to become **fishers of men**. (Mark 1:17b ULT)

I will make you to become **people who gather men**.
Now you gather fish. I will make you **gather people**.

To learn more about specific metaphors, see [Biblical Imagery — Common Patterns](#).

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:7](#); [1:14](#); [2:5](#); [3:8](#); [3:17](#); [4:15](#); [4:21](#); [4:22](#); [4:23](#); [4:25](#); [5:21](#); [6:6](#); [6:12](#); [6:30](#); [7:1](#); [7:3](#); [7:13](#); [7:14](#); [7:22](#); [8:6](#); [8:15](#); [8:19](#); [8:32](#); [9:3](#); [9:7](#); [9:12](#); [9:15](#); [9:17](#); [9:21](#); [9:34](#); [9:35](#); [10:1](#); [10:20](#); [10:21](#); [10:27](#); [11:8](#); [11:10](#); [12:15](#); [12:19](#); [13:3](#); [13:9](#); [13:14](#); [13:15](#); [14:4](#); [14:8](#); [14:17](#); [14:27](#); [15:1](#); [15:2](#); [15:3](#); [15:4](#); [15:6](#); [15:7](#); [15:8](#); [15:10](#); [15:12](#); [15:15](#); [15:16](#); [15:17](#); [15:21](#); [Notes](#); [16:4](#); [16:29](#); [17:14](#); [18:8](#); [18:18](#); [18:19](#); [18:20](#); [18:21](#); [18:22](#); [18:25](#); [18:26](#); [Notes](#); [19:4](#); [19:6](#); [19:7](#); [19:21](#); [19:22](#); [19:24](#); [20:2](#); [20:20](#); [23:2](#); [23:7](#); [23:8](#); [23:16](#); [23:33](#); [28:38](#); [30:14](#); [30:33](#); [30:38](#); [31:3](#); [31:13](#); [31:14](#); [31:16](#); [32:1](#); [32:8](#); [32:9](#); [32:21](#); [33:3](#); [33:5](#); [33:11](#); [33:12](#); [33:13](#); [33:19](#); [33:22](#); [34:7](#); [34:9](#); [34:14](#); [34:15](#); [34:16](#); [34:22](#); [35:21](#); [35:31](#); [35:35](#); [36:2](#); [40:38](#))

Metonymy

Description

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which an item (either physical or abstract) is called not by its own name, but by the name of something closely associated with it. A metonym is a word or phrase used as a substitute for something that it is associated with.

This page answers the question: *What is a metonymy?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro\]\]](#)

... and **the blood** of Jesus his Son cleanses us from every sin. (1 John 1:7b ULT)

The blood represents Christ's death.

And he took **the cup** in the same way after supper, saying, "**This cup** is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:20 ULT)

The cup represents the wine that is in the cup.

Metonymy can be used

- as a shorter way of referring to something
- to make an abstract idea more meaningful by referring to it with the name of a physical object associated with it

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

The Bible uses metonymy very often. Speakers of some languages are not familiar with metonymy and they may not recognize it when they read it in the Bible. If they do not recognize the metonymy, they will not understand the passage or, worse yet, they will get a wrong understanding of the passage. Whenever a metonym is used, people need to be able to understand what it represents.

Examples From the Bible

The Lord God will give to him **the throne** of his father David. (Luke 1:32b ULT)

A throne represents the authority of a king. "Throne" is a metonym for "kingly authority," "kingship," or "reign." This means that God would make him become a king who would follow King David.

Then immediately his **mouth** was opened (Luke 1:64a ULT)

The mouth here represents the power to speak. This means that he was able to talk again.

Who warned you to flee from **the wrath** that is coming? (Luke 3:7b ULT)

The word "wrath" or "anger" is a metonym for "punishment." God was extremely angry with the people and, as a result, he would punish them.

Translation Strategies

If people would easily understand the metonym, consider using it. Otherwise, here are some options.

- (1) Use the metonym along with the name of the thing it represents.
- (2) Use only the name of the thing the metonym represents.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Use the metonym along with the name of the thing it represents.

And he took the cup in the same way after the supper, saying, “**This cup** is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.” (Luke 22:20 ULT)

He took the cup in the same way after supper, saying, “**The wine in this cup** is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

This verse also contains a second metonym: The cup, (representing the wine it contains) also represents the new covenant made with the blood Christ shed for us.

- (2) Use the name of the thing the metonym represents.

The Lord God will give him **the throne** of his father David. (Luke 1:32b ULT)

“The Lord God will give him **the kingly authority** of his father, David.”

or:

“The Lord God will **make him king** like his ancestor, King David.”

Who warned you to flee from **the wrath** that is coming? (Luke 3:7b ULT)

“Who warned you to flee from God’s coming **punishment?**”

To learn about some common metonymies, see [Biblical Imagery — Common Metonymies](#).

(Go back to: Exodus 1:1; 1:5; 1:7; 1:8; 1:12; 1:16; 2:15; 2:19; 3:2; 3:7; 3:8; 3:13; 3:15; 3:16; 3:17; 3:18; 3:19; 3:20; 4:1; 4:3; 4:9; 4:10; 4:12; 4:14; 4:15; 4:18; 4:21; 4:22; 4:30; 5:2; 5:3; 5:10; 5:21; 5:23; 6:1; 6:12; 6:14; 6:25; 6:30; 7:4; 7:5; 7:9; 7:10; 7:20; 8:20; 8:24; 8:26; 9:3; 9:4; 9:6; 9:7; 9:8; 9:10; 9:11; 9:13; 9:15; 9:16; 9:19; 9:21; 9:30; 10:3; 10:10; 10:11; 10:17; 10:23; 10:25; 12:13; 12:48; 13:3; 13:5; 13:9; 13:11; 13:14; 13:16; 13:21; 13:22; 14:5; 14:19; 14:25; 14:27; 14:30; 14:31; 15:6; 15:9; 15:12; 15:16; 15:17; 15:26; 16:3; 16:33; 16:34; 17:1; 17:6; 17:8; 17:13; 17:14; 18:4; 18:8; 18:9; 18:10; 18:12; 18:14; 19:5; 19:7; 19:8; 19:9; 19:11; 19:13; 19:19; 20:6; 20:10; 20:24; 21:1; 21:6; 22:8; 22:9; 22:24; 23:1; 23:13; 23:17; 23:20; 23:21; 23:22; 23:23; 23:27; 23:28; 23:29; 23:30; 23:31; 24:11; 24:16; 25:30; 25:37; 25:40; 26:9; 27:21; 28:3; 28:12; 28:25; 28:27; 28:30; 28:35; 28:37; 28:38; 29:10; 29:23; 29:24; 29:42; 30:6; 30:16; 30:36; 32:1; 32:5; 32:11; 32:12; 32:32; 32:33; 33:3; 33:9; 33:14; 33:15; 33:19; 34:3; 34:5; 34:7; 34:11; 34:14; 34:15; 34:23; 35:10; 35:13; 35:20; 35:24; 35:25; 35:29; 36:1; 36:3; 36:6; 38:21; 40:5; 40:6; 40:18; 40:23; 40:25; 40:26; 40:38)

Nominal Adjectives

Description

In some languages an adjective can be used to refer to a class of things that the adjective describes. When it does, it acts like a noun. For example, the word “rich” is an adjective. Here are two sentences that show that “rich” is an adjective.

The rich man had huge numbers of flocks and herds. (2 Samuel 12:2 ULT)

The adjective “rich” comes before the word “man” and describes “man.”

He will not be rich; his wealth will not last. (Job 15:29a ULT)

The adjective “rich” comes after the verb “be” and describes “He.”

Here is a sentence that shows that “rich” can also function as a noun.

The rich must not give more than the half shekel, and **the poor** must not give less. (Exodus 30:15b ULT)

In Exodus 30:15, the word “rich” acts as a noun in the phrase “the rich,” and it refers to rich people. The word “poor” also acts as a noun and refers to poor people.

This page answers the question: *How do I translate adjectives that act like nouns?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-partsofspeech]]

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

- Many times in the Bible adjectives are used as nouns to describe a group of people.
- Some languages do not use adjectives in this way.
- Readers of these languages may think that the text is talking about one particular person when it is really talking about the group of people whom the adjective describes.

Examples From the Bible

The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of **the righteous**. (Psalms 125:3a ULT)

“The righteous” here are people who are righteous, not one particular righteous person.

Blessed are **the meek**. (Matthew 5:5a ULT)

“The meek” here are all people who are meek, not one particular meek person.

Translation Strategies

If your language uses adjectives as nouns to refer to a class of people, consider using the adjectives in this way. If it would sound strange, or if the meaning would be unclear or wrong, here is another option:

(1) Use the adjective with a plural form of the noun that the adjective describes.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Use the adjective with a plural form of the noun that the adjective describes.

The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of **the righteous**. (Psalms 125:3a ULT)

The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of **righteous people**.

Blessed are **the meek**. (Matthew 5:5a ULT)

Blessed are **people who are meek**.

(Go back to: [Exodus 36:4](#))

Numbers

Description

There are many numbers in the Bible. They can be written as words (“five”) or as numerals (“5”). Some numbers are very large, such as “two hundred” (200), “twenty-two thousand” (22,000), or “one hundred million” (100,000,000). Some languages do not have words for all of these numbers. Translators need to decide how to translate numbers and whether to write them as words or numerals.

This page answers the question: *How do I translate numbers?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Translate Unknowns](#)

Some numbers are exact and others are rounded.

▮ Abram was **86** years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram. (Genesis 16:16 ULT)

Eighty-six (86) is an exact number.

▮ That day about **3,000** of the people died. (Exodus 32:28b ULT)

Here the number three thousand (3,000) is a round number. It may have been a little more than that or a little less than that. The word “about” shows that it is not an exact number.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Some languages do not have words for some of these numbers.

Translation Principles

- Exact numbers should be translated as closely and specifically as they can be.
- Rounded numbers can be translated more generally.

Examples From the Bible

▮ When Jared had lived **162** years, he became the father of Enoch. After he became the father of Enoch, Jared lived **800** years. He became the father of more sons and daughters. Jared lived **962** years, and then he died. (Genesis 5:18-20 ULT)

The numbers 162, 800, and 962 are exact numbers and should be translated with something as close to those numbers as possible.

▮ Our sister, may you be the mother of **thousands of ten thousands**. (Genesis 24:60b ULT)

This is a rounded number. It does not say exactly how many descendants she should have, but it was a huge number of them.

Translation Strategies

- (1) Write numbers using numerals.
- (2) Write numbers using your language’s words or the Gateway Language words for those numbers.
- (3) Write numbers using words, and put the numerals in parentheses after them.

(4) Combine words for large numbers.

(5) Use a very general expression for very large rounded numbers and write the numeral in parentheses afterward.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

We will use the following verse in our examples:

Now, see, at great effort I have prepared for Yahweh's house **100,000** talents of gold, **1,000,000** talents of silver, and bronze and iron in large quantities. (1 Chronicles 22:14a ULT)

(1) Write numbers using numerals.

I have prepared for Yahweh's house **100,000** talents of gold, **1,000,000** talents of silver, and bronze and iron in large quantities.

(2) Write numbers using your language's words or the Gateway Language words for those numbers.

I have prepared for Yahweh's house **one hundred thousand** talents of gold, **one million** talents of silver, and bronze and iron in large quantities.

(3) Write numbers using words, and put the numerals in parenthesis after them.

I have prepared for Yahweh's house one **hundred thousand (100,000)** talents of gold, **one million (1,000,000)** talents of silver, and bronze and iron in large quantities.

(4) Combine words for large numbers.

I have prepared for Yahweh's house **one hundred thousand** talents of gold, **a thousand thousand** talents of silver, and bronze and iron in large quantities.

(5) Use a very general expression for very large rounded numbers and write the numeral in parentheses afterward.

I have prepared for Yahweh's house **a great amount of gold (100,000 talents), ten times that amount of silver (1,000,000 talents)**, and bronze and iron in large quantities.

Consistency

Be consistent in your translations. Decide how the numbers will be translated, using numbers or numerals. There are different ways of being consistent.

- Use words to represent numbers all of the time. (You might have very long words.)
- Use numerals to represent numbers all of the time.
- Use words to represent the numbers that your language has words for and use numerals for the numbers that your language does not have words for.
- Use words for low numbers and numerals for high numbers.
- Use words for numbers that require few words and numerals for numbers that require more than a few words.
- Use words to represent numbers, and write the numerals in parentheses after them.

Consistency in the ULT and UST

The *unfoldingWord® Literal Text* (ULT) and the *unfoldingWord® Simplified Text* (UST) use words for the numbers one through ten and use numerals for all numbers above ten.

When Adam had lived **130** years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, after his image, and he called his name Seth. After Adam became the father of Seth, he lived **800** years. He became the father of more sons and daughters. Adam lived **930** years, and then he died.
(Genesis 5:3-5 ULT)

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Ordinal Numbers](#)

[Fractions](#)

(Go back to: Exodus 2:2; 2:16; 3:18; 6:16; 6:18; 6:20; 7:7; 7:25; 10:22; 10:23; 12:37; 12:40; 12:41; 13:6; 13:7; 14:7; 15:27; 18:21; 18:25; 22:1; 22:30; 23:10; 23:12; 23:14; 23:15; 24:1; 24:4; 24:16; 24:18; 26:7; 26:8; 26:16; 28:9; 28:10; 29:35; 31:15; 32:28; 34:18; 34:28; 35:2)

Order of Events

Description

In the Bible, events are not always told in the order in which they occurred. Sometimes the author wanted to discuss something that happened at an earlier time than the event that he just talked about. This can be confusing to the reader.

This page answers the question: *Why are some events not listed in the order they happened, and how do I translate them?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/writing-intro]]

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-verbs]]

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Readers might think that the events happened in the order that they are told. It is important to help them understand the correct order of events.

Examples From the Bible

He even added this to them all: he locked John up in prison. Now it came about, when all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized. (Luke 3:20-21 ULT)

This could sound like John baptized Jesus after John was locked up in prison, but John baptized Jesus before John was locked up in prison.

Just as Joshua had said to the people, the seven priests carrying seven trumpets of rams' horns before Yahweh went forward and blew the trumpets, and the ark of the covenant of Yahweh followed after them. But Joshua commanded the people, saying, "Do not shout nor let your voice be heard, nor let any word leave your mouth until the day I tell you to shout. Then you must shout." (Joshua 6:8,10 ULT)

This could sound like Joshua gave the order not to shout after the army had already started their march, but he had given that order before they started marching.

Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals? (Revelation 5:2b ULT)

This sounds like a person must first open the scroll and then break its seals, but the seals that lock the scroll must be broken before the scroll can be unrolled.

Translation Strategies

(1) If your language uses phrases or time words to show that an event happened before one that was already mentioned, consider using one of them.

(2) If your language uses verb tense or aspect to show that an event happened before one that was already mentioned, consider using that. (See the section on "Aspect" of Verbs.)

(3) If your language prefers to tell events in the order that they occurred, consider reordering the events so they are in that order. This may require putting two or more verses together (like 5-6). (See [Verse Bridges](#).)

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) If your language uses phrases, time words or tenses to show that an event happened before the one just mentioned, consider using one of them.

20 he even added this to them all: he locked John up in prison. Now it came about, when all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized. (Luke 3:20-21 ULT)

20 But then Herod ... had John locked up in prison. 21 **Before John was put in prison**, while all the people were being baptized by John, Jesus also was baptized.

Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals? (Revelation 5:2b ULT)

Who is worthy to open the scroll **after** breaking its seals?

(2) If your language uses verb tense or aspect to show that an event happened before one that was already mentioned, consider using that.

Just as Joshua had said to the people, the seven priests carrying seven trumpets of rams' horns before Yahweh went forward and blew the trumpets, But Joshua commanded the people, saying, "Do not shout nor let your voice be heard, nor let any word leave your mouth until the day I tell you to shout. Then you must shout." (Joshua 6:8,10 ULT)

8 Just as Joshua had said to the people, the seven priests carried the seven trumpets of rams' horns before Yahweh, as they advanced, they gave a blast on the trumpets 10 But Joshua **had commanded** the people, saying, "Do not shout. No sound must leave your mouths until the day I tell you to shout. Only then must you shout."

(3) If your language prefers to tell events in the order that they occur, consider reordering the events. This may require putting two or more verses together (like 5-6).

8 Just as Joshua had said to the people, the seven priests carrying seven trumpets of rams' horns before Yahweh went forward and blew the trumpets, But Joshua commanded the people, saying, "Do not shout nor let your voice be heard, nor let any word leave your mouth until the day I tell you to shout. Then you must shout." (Joshua 6:8,10 ULT)

8,10 Joshua commanded the people, saying, "Do not shout. No sound must leave your mouths until the day I tell you to shout. Only then must you shout." Then just as Joshua had said to the people, the seven priests carried the seven trumpets of rams horns before Yahweh, as they advanced, they gave a blast on the trumpets...

Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals? (Revelation 5:2b ULT)

Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?

You may also want to watch the video at https://ufw.io/figs_events.

Next we recommend you learn about:

- [Background Information](#)
- [Connecting Words and Phrases](#)
- [Introduction of a New Event](#)
- [Verse Bridges](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 33:5](#))

Ordinal Numbers

Description

Ordinal numbers are used in the Bible mainly to tell the position of something in a list.

And God has indeed appointed some in the church, **first** apostles, **second** prophets, **third** teachers, then miracles. (1 Corinthians 12:28a ULT)

This page answers the question: *What are ordinal numbers and how can I translate them?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Numbers](#)

This is a list of workers that God gave to the church in their order.

Ordinal Numbers in English

Most ordinal numbers in English simply have “-th” added to the end.

Numeral	Number	Ordinal Number
4	four	fourth
10	ten	tenth
100	one hundred	one hundredth
1,000	one thousand	one thousandth

Some ordinal numbers in English do not follow that pattern.

Numeral	Number	Ordinal Number
1	one	first
2	two	second
3	three	third
5	five	fifth
12	twelve	twelfth

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Some languages do not have special numbers for showing the order of items in a list. There are different ways to deal with this.

Examples From the Bible

The **first** lot went to Jehoiarib, the **second** to Jedaiah, the **third** to Harim, the **fourth** to Seorim ... the **twenty-third** to Delaiah, and the **twenty-fourth** to Maaziah. (1 Chronicles 24:7-18 ULT)

The people cast lots and one went to each of these people in the order given.

You must place in it four rows of precious stones. The **first** row must have a ruby, a topaz, and a garnet. The **second** row must have an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. The **third** row must have a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst. The **fourth** row must have a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper. They must be mounted in gold settings. (Exodus 28:17-20 ULT)

This describes four rows of stones. The first row is probably the top row, and the fourth row is probably the bottom row.

Translation Strategies

If your language has ordinal numbers and using them would give the right meaning, consider using them. If not, here are some strategies to consider:

- (1) Use “one” with the first item and “another” or “the next” with the rest.
- (2) Tell the total number of items and then list them or the things associated with them.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Tell the total number of items, and use “one” with the first item and “another” or “the next” with the rest.

The first lot went to Jehoiarib, the second to Jedaiah, the third to Harim, the fourth to Seorim ... the twenty-third to Delaiah, and the twenty-fourth to Maaziah. (1 Chronicles 24:7-18 ULT)

There were **24** lots. **One lot** went to Jehoiarib, **another** to Jedaiah, **another** to Harim ... **another** to Delaiah, **and the last** went to Maaziah.

There were **24** lots. **One lot** went to Jehoiarib, **the next** to Jedaiah, **the next** to Harim ... **the next** to Delaiah, **and the last** went to Maaziah.

A river went out of Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became **four** rivers. The name of **the first** is Pishon. It is the one which flows throughout the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. The gold of that land is good. There is also bdellium and the onyx stone there. The name of **the second** river is Gihon. This one flows throughout the whole land of Cush. The name of **the third** river is Tigris, which flows east of Asshur. **The fourth** river is the Euphrates. (Genesis 2:10-14 ULT)

A river went out of Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became **four** rivers. The name of **one** is Pishon. It is the one which flows throughout the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. The gold of that land is good. There is also bdellium and the onyx stone there. The name of **the next** river is Gihon. This one flows throughout the whole land of Cush. The name of **the next** river is Tigris, which flows east of Asshur. **The last** river is the Euphrates.

- (2) Tell the total number of items and then list them or the things associated with them.

The **first** lot went to Jehoiarib, the **second** to Jedaiah, the **third** to Harim, the **fourth** to Seorim ... the **twenty-third** to Delaiah, and the **twenty-fourth** to Maaziah. (1 Chronicles 24:7-18 ULT)

They cast **24** lots. The lots went to Jerhoiarib, Jedaiah, Harim, Seorim ... Delaiah, and Maaziah.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Fractions](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:13](#); [12:16](#); [12:18](#); [13:6](#); [16:1](#); [16:5](#); [16:22](#); [16:26](#); [16:29](#); [19:1](#); [20:5](#); [20:11](#); [22:30](#); [23:11](#); [23:12](#); [24:16](#); [26:4](#); [28:18](#); [28:19](#); [28:20](#); [31:15](#); [34:21](#); [35:2](#); [40:2](#); [40:17](#))

Parallelism

Description

Parallelism is a poetic device in which two phrases or clauses that are similar in structure or idea are used together. The following are some of the different kinds of parallelism.

- The second clause or phrase means the same as the first. This is called synonymous parallelism.
- The second clarifies or strengthens the meaning of the first.
- The second completes what is said in the first.
- The second says something that contrasts with the first, but adds to the same idea.

Parallelism is most commonly found in Old Testament poetry, such as in the books of Psalms and Proverbs. It also occurs in Greek in the New Testament, both in the four gospels and in the apostles' letters.

This article will only discuss synonymous parallelism, the kind in which the two parallel phrases mean the same thing, because that is the kind that presents a problem for translation. Note that we use the term "synonymous parallelism" for long phrases or clauses that have the same meaning. We use the term "doublet" for words or very short phrases that mean basically the same thing and are used together.

In the poetry of the original languages, synonymous parallelism has several effects:

- It shows that something is very important by saying it more than once and in more than one way.
- It helps the hearer to think more deeply about the idea by saying it in different ways.
- It makes the language more beautiful and raises it above the ordinary way of speaking.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

Some languages would not use synonymous parallelism. They would either think it odd that someone said the same thing twice, or, since it is in the Bible, they would think that the two phrases must have some difference in meaning. For them it would be confusing, rather than beautiful. They would not understand that the repetition of the idea in different words serves to emphasize the idea.

Examples From the Bible

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105 ULT)

Both parts of the sentence are metaphors saying that God's word teaches people how to live. That is the single idea. The words "lamp" and "light" are similar in meaning because they refer to light. The words "my feet" and "my path" are related because they refer to a person walking. Walking is a metaphor for living.

You make him to rule over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet (Psalm 8:6 ULT)

Both lines say that God made man the ruler of everything. "To rule over" is the same idea as putting things "under his feet," and "the works of your [God's] hands" is the same idea as "all things."

This page answers the question: *What is parallelism?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro]]

Yahweh sees everything a person does
and watches all the paths he takes. (Proverbs 5:21 ULT)

The first phrase and the second phrase mean the same thing. There are three ideas that are the same between these two phrases. "Sees" corresponds to "watches," "everything...does" corresponds to "all the paths...takes," and "a person" corresponds to "he."

Praise Yahweh, all you nations;
exalt him, all you peoples! (Psalm 117:1 ULT)

Both parts of this verse tell people everywhere to praise Yahweh. The words 'Praise' and 'exalt' mean the same thing. The words 'Yahweh' and 'him' refer to the same person. The terms 'all you nations' and 'all you peoples' refer to the same people.

For Yahweh has a lawsuit with his people,
and he will fight in court against Israel. (Micah 6:2b ULT)

The two parts of this verse say that Yahweh has a serious disagreement with his people, Israel. These are not two different disagreements or two different groups of people.

Translation Strategies

For most kinds of parallelism, it is good to translate both of the clauses or phrases. For synonymous parallelism, it is good to translate both clauses if people in your language understand that the purpose of saying something twice is to strengthen a single idea. But if your language does not use parallelism in this way, then consider using one of the following translation strategies.

- (1) Combine the ideas of both clauses into one.
- (2) If it appears that the clauses are used together to show that what they say is really true, you could combine the ideas of both clauses into one and include words that emphasize the truth such as "truly" or "certainly."
- (3) If it appears that the clauses are used together to intensify an idea in them, you could combine the ideas of both clauses into one and use words like "very," "completely," or "all."

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Combine the ideas of both clauses into one.

Until now you have dealt deceitfully with me and you have spoken lies to me. (Judges 16:13, ULT)

Delilah expressed this idea twice to emphasize that she was very upset.

Until now you have deceived me with your lies.
Yahweh sees everything a person does and watches all the paths he takes. (Proverbs 5:21 ULT)

The phrase "all the paths he takes" is a metaphor for "all he does."

Yahweh pays attention to everything a person does.
For Yahweh has a lawsuit with his people, and he will fight in court against Israel. (Micah 6:2 ULT)

This parallelism describes one serious disagreement that Yahweh had with one group of people. If this is unclear, the phrases can be combined:

For Yahweh has a lawsuit with his people, Israel.

(2) If it appears that the clauses are used together to show that what they say is really true, you could combine the ideas of both clauses into one and include words that emphasize the truth such as “truly” or “certainly.”

Yahweh sees everything a person does and watches all the paths he takes. (Proverbs 5:21 ULT)

Yahweh truly sees everything a person does.

You make him to rule over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet (Psalm 8:6 ULT)

You have certainly made him to rule over everything that you have created.

(3) If it appears that the clauses are used together to intensify an idea in them, you could combine the ideas of both clauses into one and use words like “very,” “completely” or “all.”

Until now you have dealt deceitfully with me and you have spoken lies to me. (Judges 16:13, ULT)

All you have done is lie to me.

Yahweh sees everything a person does and watches all the paths he takes. (Proverbs 5:21 ULT)

Yahweh sees absolutely everything that a person does.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Personification](#)

(Go back to: Exodus 3:8; 3:9; 6:1; 6:4; 7:6; 9:2; 10:5; 10:15; 12:2; 13:9; 13:16; 15:2; 15:4; 15:5; 15:6; 15:7; 15:8; 15:13; 15:14; 19:3; 23:13; 23:22; 25:15; 28:3; 29:18; 32:18; 33:10; 33:19; 35:21; 39:32)

Personification

Description

Personification is a figure of speech in which someone speaks of something as if it could do things that animals or people can do. People often do this because it makes it easier to talk about things that we cannot see:

Such as wisdom:

Does not Wisdom call out? (Proverbs 8:1a ULT)

Or sin:

Sin crouches at the door. (Genesis 4:7b ULT)

People also use personification because it is sometimes easier to talk about people's relationships with non-human things such as wealth as if they were relationships between people.

You cannot serve God and wealth. (Matthew 6:24b ULT)

In each case, the purpose of the personification is to highlight a certain characteristic of the non-human thing. As in metaphor, the reader needs to think of the way that the thing is like a certain kind of person.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- Some languages do not use personification.
- Some languages use personification only in certain situations.

Examples From the Bible

You cannot **serve** God and wealth. (Matthew 6:24b ULT)

Jesus speaks of wealth as if it were a master whom people might serve. Loving money and basing one's decisions on it is like serving it as a slave would serve his master.

Does not Wisdom **call** out? Does not Understanding **raise her voice**? (Proverbs 8:1 ULT)

The author speaks of wisdom and understanding as if they were woman who calls out to teach people. This means that they are not something hidden, but something obvious that people should pay attention to.

Translation Strategies

If the personification would be understood clearly, consider using it. If it would not be understood, here are some other ways for translating it.

- (1) Add words or phrases to make the human (or animal) characteristic clear.
- (2) In addition to Strategy (1), use words such as "like" or "as" to show that the sentence is not to be understood literally.
- (3) Find a way to translate it without the personification.

This page answers the question: *What is personification?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro]]

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Add words or phrases to make the human (or animal) characteristic clear.

Sin crouches at the door. (Genesis 4:7b ULT) — God speaks of sin as if it were a wild animal that is waiting for the chance to attack. This shows how dangerous sin is. An additional phrase can be added to make this danger clear.

Sin is at your door, **waiting to attack you**.

(2) In addition to Strategy (1), use words such as “like” or “as” to show that the sentence is not to be understood literally.

Sin crouches at the door. (Genesis 4:7b ULT) — This can be translated with the word “as.”

Sin is crouching at the door, **just as a wild animal does as it waits to attack a person..**

(3) Find a way to translate it without the personification.

Even the **winds and the sea obey him**. (Matthew 8:27b ULT) — The men speak of the “wind and the sea” as if they are able to hear and obey Jesus, just as people can. This could also be translated without the idea of obedience by speaking of Jesus controlling them.

He even **controls the winds and the sea**.

NOTE: We have broadened our definition of “personification” to include “zoomorphism” (speaking of other things as if they had animal characteristics) and “anthropomorphism” (speaking of non-human things as if they had human characteristics) because the translation strategies for them are the same.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-apostrophe]]
[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/bit-part1]]

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:23](#); [3:9](#); [4:8](#); [7:12](#); [14:3](#); [15:7](#); [15:8](#); [15:12](#); [15:14](#); [15:15](#); [23:8](#); [24:10](#); [33:22](#); [33:23](#))

Poetry

Description

Poetry is one of the ways that people use the words and sounds of their language to make their speech and writing more beautiful and to express strong emotion. Through poetry, people can communicate deeper emotion than they can through simple non-poetic forms. Poetry gives more weight and elegance to statements of truth, such as proverbs, and is also easier to remember than ordinary speech.

This page answers the question: *What is poetry and how do I translate it into my language?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro\]\]](#)

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/writing-intro\]\]](#)

In poetry we commonly find:

- many figures of speech such as Apostrophe
- arrangements of clauses into particular patterns such as:
 - parallel lines (See [Parallelism](#))
 - acrostics (beginning lines with successive letters of the alphabet)
 - chiasms (in which the first line relates to the last line, the second to the next-to-last line, etc.):
 - > You should not give what is holy to the dogs,
 - >
 - >> and should not throw your pearls in front of the pigs.
 - >>
 - >> Otherwise they will trample them under their feet,
 - >
 - > and having turned, they might tear you to pieces. (Matt 7:6 ULT)

- repetition of some or all of a line:

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. (Psalm 148:2-3 ULT)

- lines of similar length:

Listen to my call to you,
Yahweh; think about my groanings.
Listen to the sound of my call, my King and my God,
for it is to you that I pray. (Psalm 5:1-2 ULT)

- the same sound used at the end or at the beginning of two or more lines:

“Twinkle, twinkle little **star**. How I wonder what you **are**.” (from an English rhyme)

- the same sound repeated many times:

“Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater” (from an English rhyme)

We also find:

- old words and expressions
- dramatic imagery
- different use of grammar — including:
 - incomplete sentences

- lack of connective words

Some places to look for poetry in your language

Songs, particularly old songs or songs used in children's games
 Religious ceremony or chants of priests or witch doctors
 Prayers, blessings, and curses
 Old legends

Elegant or fancy speech

Elegant or fancy speech is similar to poetry in that it uses beautiful language, but it does not use all of the language's features of poetry, and it does not use them as much as poetry does. Popular speakers in the language often use elegant speech, and this is probably the easiest source of text to study to find out what makes speech elegant in your language.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue:

- Different languages use poetry for different things. If a poetic form would not communicate the same meaning in your language, you may need to write it without the poetry.
- Different languages use different poetic devices. A poetic device that conveys elegance or emotion in a biblical language may be confusing or misunderstood in another language.
- In some languages, using poetry for a particular part of the Bible would make it much more powerful.

Examples From the Bible

The Bible uses poetry for songs, teaching, and prophecy. Almost all of the books of the Old Testament have poetry in them and many of the books are completely made up of poetry.

... for you saw my affliction; you knew the distress of my soul. (Psalm 31:7b ULT)

This example of [Parallelism](#) has two lines that mean the same thing.

Yahweh, judge the nations; vindicate me, Yahweh, because I am righteous and innocent, Most High. (Psalm 7:8 ULT)

This example of parallelism shows the contrast between what David wants God to do to him and what he wants God to do to the unrighteous nations. (See [Parallelism](#).)

Keep your servant also from arrogant sins; let them not rule over me. (Psalm 19:13a ULT)

This example of personification speaks of sins as if they could rule over a person. (See [Personification](#).)

Oh, give thanks to Yahweh; for he is good,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
 Oh, give thanks to the God of gods,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.
 Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords,
 for his covenant faithfulness endures forever.

(Psalm 136:1-3 ULT)

This example repeats the phrases “give thanks” and “his covenant faithfulness endures forever.”

Translation Strategies

If the style of poetry that is used in the source text would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here are some other ways of translating it.

- (1) Translate the poetry using one of your styles of poetry.
- (2) Translate the poetry using your style of elegant speech.
- (3) Translate the poetry using your style of ordinary speech.

If you use poetry it may be more beautiful.

If you use ordinary speech it may be more clear.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the advice of the wicked, or stand in the pathway with sinners, or sit in the assembly of mockers. But his delight is in the law of Yahweh, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2 ULT)

The following are examples of how people might translate Psalm 1:1-2.

- (1) Translate the poetry using one of your styles of poetry. (The style in this example has words that sound similar at the end of each line.)

“Happy is the person not encouraged **to sin**, Disrespect for God he will not **begin**, To those who laugh at God he is **no kin**. God is his constant **delight**, He does what God says **is right**, He thinks of it all day **and night**.”

- (2) Translate the poetry using your style of elegant speech.

This is the kind of person who is truly blessed: the one who does not follow the advice of wicked people nor stop along the road to speak with sinners nor join the gathering of those who mock God. Rather, he takes great joy in Yahweh’s law, and he meditates on it day and night.

- (3) Translate the poetry using your style of ordinary speech.

The people who do not listen to the advice of bad people are really happy. They do not spend time with people who continually do evil things or join with those who do not respect God. Instead, they love to obey Yahweh’s law, and they think about it all the time.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/writing-symlanguage\]\]](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 32:18](#))

Possession

Description

In English, the grammatical form that commonly indicates possession is also used to indicate a variety of relationships between people and objects or people and other people. In English, that grammatical relationship is shown by using the word “of,” by using **an apostrophe and the letter “s”**, or by using a **possessive pronoun**. The following examples are different ways to indicate that my grandfather owns a house.

- the house **of** my grandfather
- my grandfather **'s** house
- **his** house

Possession is used in Hebrew, Greek, and English for a variety of situations. Here are a few common situations that it is used for.

- Ownership — Someone owns something.
 - The clothes of me - my clothes — The clothes that I own
- Social Relationship — Someone has some kind of social relationship with another.
 - The mother of John — John's mother - the woman who gave birth to John, or the woman who cared for John
 - A teacher of Israel - Israel's teacher — a person who teaches Israel
- Association — A particular thing is associated with a particular person, place, or thing.
 - The sickness of David - David's sickness — the sickness that David is experiencing
 - the fear of the Lord — the fear that is appropriate for a human being to have when relating to the Lord
- Contents — Something has something in it.
 - a bag of clothes — a bag that has clothes in it, or a bag that is full of clothes
- Part and whole: One thing is part of another.
 - my head — the head that is part of my body
 - the roof of a house — the roof that is part of a house

In some languages there is a special form of possession, termed **inalienable possession**. This form of possession is used for things that cannot be removed from you, as opposed to things you could lose. In the examples above, *my head* and *my mother* are examples of inalienable possession (at least in some languages), while *my clothes* or *my teacher* would be alienably possessed. What may be considered alienable vs. inalienable may differ by language.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- You (the translator) need to understand the relationship between two ideas represented by the two nouns when one is in the grammatical relationship of possessing the other.
- Some languages do not use grammatical possession for all of the situations that your source text Bible might use it for.

Examples From the Bible

Ownership — In the example below, the son owned the money.

▮ The younger son ... wasted his wealth by living recklessly. (Luke 15:13b)
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This page answers the question: *What is possession and how can I translate phrases that show it?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-partspeech]]
[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-sentences]]

Social Relationship — In the example below, the disciples were people who learned from John.

Then **the disciples of John** came to him. (Matthew 9:14a ULT)

Association — In the example below, the gospel is the message associated with Paul because he preaches it.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, from the seed of David, according to **my gospel**, (2 Timothy 2:8 ULT)

Material — In the example below, the material used for making the crowns was gold.

On their heads were something like **crowns of gold**. (Revelation 9:7b)

Contents — In the example below, the cup has water in it.

For whoever gives you **a cup of water** to drink ... will not lose his reward. (Mark 9:41 ULT)

Part of a whole — In the example below, the door was a part of the palace.

But Uriah slept at **the door of the king's palace**. (2 Samuel 11:9a ULT)

Part of a group — In the example below, “us” refers to the whole group and “each one” refers to the individual members.

Now to **each one of us** grace has been given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7 ULT)

Events and Possession

Sometimes one or both of the nouns is an abstract noun that refers to an event or action. In the examples below, the abstract nouns are in **bold** print. These are just some of the relationships that are possible between two nouns when one of them refers to an event.

Subject — Sometimes the word after “of” tells who would do the action named by the first noun. In the example below, **John baptized people**.

The **baptism of John**, was it from heaven or from men? Answer me. (Mark 11:30)

In the example below, **Christ loves us**.

Who will separate us from the **love of Christ**? (Romans 8:35)

Object — Sometimes the word after “of” tells who or what something would happen to. In the example below, **people love money**.

For the **love of money** is a root of all kinds of evil. (1 Timothy 6:10a ULT)

Instrument — Sometimes the word after “of” tells how something would happen. In the example below, God would **punish people by sending enemies to attack them with swords**.

Then be afraid of the sword, because wrath brings **the punishment of the sword**. (Job 19:29a ULT)

Representation — In the example below, John was baptizing people who were repenting of their sins. They were being baptized to show that they were repenting. Their **baptism represented their repentance**.

John came, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching **a baptism of repentance** for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4 ULT)

Strategies for learning what the relationship is between the two nouns

- (1) Read the surrounding verses to see if they help you to understand the relationship between the two nouns.
- (2) Read the verse in the UST. Sometimes it shows the relationship clearly.
- (3) See what the notes say about it.

Translation Strategies

If possession would be a natural way to show a particular relationship between two nouns, consider using it. If it would be strange or hard to understand, consider these.

- (1) Use an adjective to show that one noun describes the other.
- (2) Use a verb to show how the two are related.
- (3) If one of the nouns refers to an event, translate it as a verb.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Use an adjective to show that one noun describes the other.

On their heads were something like **crowns of gold**. (Revelation 9:7b)

“On their heads were **gold crowns**”

- (2) Use a verb to show how the two are related.

Whoever gives you **a cup of water** to drink ... will not lose his reward. (Mark 9:41 ULT)

Whoever gives you a **cup that has water in it** to drink ... will not lose his reward.

Wealth is worthless on **the day of wrath**. (Proverbs 11:4a ULT)

Wealth is worthless on **the day when God shows his wrath**.

or:

Wealth is worthless on the **day when God punishes people because of his wrath**.

- (3) If one of the nouns refers to an event, translate it as a verb. (In the example below, there are two possession relationships, “punishment of Yahweh” and “your God.”)

Notice that I am not speaking to your children, who have not known or seen **the punishment of Yahweh your God**. (Deuteronomy 11:2a ULT)

Notice that I am not speaking to your children who have not known or seen **how Yahweh, the God whom you worship, punished the people of Egypt**.

You will only observe and see the **punishment of the wicked**. (Psalms 91:8 ULT)

You will only observe and see **how Yahweh punishes the wicked**.

You will receive **the gift of the Holy Spirit**. (Acts 2:38b ULT)

|| You will receive the **Holy Spirit, whom God will give to you.**

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:9](#); [1:11](#); [3:1](#); [3:7](#); [3:8](#); [3:18](#); [3:21](#); [4:27](#); [7:16](#); [7:19](#); [26:33](#); [26:34](#); [29:37](#); [30:10](#); [30:29](#); [30:36](#); [34:10](#); [40:10](#))

Pronouns

Description

Pronouns are words that people might use instead of using a noun when referring to someone or something. Some examples are "I," "you," "he," "it," "this," "that," "himself," "someone," and others. The personal pronoun is the most common type of pronoun.

This page answers the question: *What are pronouns, and what kinds of pronouns are in some languages?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-partsofspeech\]\]](#)

Personal Pronouns

Personal pronouns refer to people or things and show whether the speaker is referring to himself, the person he is speaking to, or someone or something else. The following are kinds of information that personal pronouns may provide. Other types of pronouns may give some of this information, as well.

Person

- First Person — The speaker and possibly others (I, me, we, us)
 - [Exclusive and Inclusive "We"](#)
- Second Person — The person or people that the speaker is talking to and possibly others (you)
 - [Forms of You](#)
- Third Person — Someone or something other than the speaker and those he is talking to (he, she, it, they)

Number

- Singular — one (I, you, he, she, it)
- Plural — more than one (we, you, they)
 - [Singular Pronouns that Refer to Groups](#)
- Dual — two (Some languages have pronouns specifically for two people or two things.)

Gender

- Masculine — he
- Feminine — she
- Neuter — it

Relationship to other words in the sentence

- Subject of the verb: I, you, he, she, it, we, they
- Object of the verb or preposition: me, you, him, her, it, us, them
- Possessor with a noun: my, your, his, her, its, our, their
- Possessor without a noun: mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs

Other Types of pronouns

Reflexive Pronouns refer to another noun or pronoun in the same sentence: myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves.

- John saw **himself** in the mirror. The word “himself” refers to John.

Interrogative Pronouns are used to make a question that needs more than just a yes or no for an answer: what, which, who, whom, whose.

- **Who** built the house?

Relative Pronouns mark a relative clause. The relative pronouns, who, whom, whose, which and that give more information about a noun in the main part of the sentence. Sometimes, the relative adverbs when and where can also be used as relative pronouns.

- I saw the house **that John built**. The clause “that John built” tells which house I saw.
- I saw the man **who built the house**. The clause “who built the house” tells which man I saw.

Demonstrative Pronouns are used to draw attention to someone or something and to show distance from the speaker or something else. The demonstrative pronouns are: this, these, that, and those.

- Have you seen **this** here?
- Who is **that** over there?

Indefinite pronouns are used when no particular noun is being referred to. The indefinite pronouns are: any, anyone, someone, anything, something, and some. Sometimes a personal pronoun is used in a generic way to do this: you, they, he or it.

- He does not want to talk to **anyone**.
- **Someone** fixed it, but I do not know who.
- **They** say that **you** should not wake a sleeping dog.

In the last example, “they” and “you” just refer to people in general.

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:23](#))

Pronouns — When to Use Them

Description

When we talk or write, we use pronouns to refer to people or things without always having to repeat the noun or name. Usually, the first time we refer to someone in a story, we use a descriptive phrase or a name. The next time we might refer to that person with a simple noun or by name. After that we might refer to him simply with a pronoun as long as we think that our listeners will be able to understand easily to whom the pronoun refers.

This page answers the question: *How do I decide whether or not to use a pronoun?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Pronouns](#)

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-sentences]]

Now there was **a man from the Pharisees whose name was Nicodemus, a Jewish leader**. **This man** came to Jesus at night. Jesus replied and said to **him** ... (John 3:1, 2a, 3a ULT)

In John 3, Nicodemus is first referred to with noun phrases and his name. Then he is referred to with the noun phrase “this man.” Then he is referred to with the pronoun “him.”

Each language has its rules and exceptions to this usual way of referring to people and things.

- In some languages, the first time something is referred to in a paragraph or chapter, it is referred to with a noun rather than a pronoun.
- The main character is the person whom a story is about. In some languages, after a main character is introduced in a story, he is usually referred to with a pronoun. Some languages have special pronouns that refer only to the main character.
- In some languages, marking on the verb helps people know who the subject is. (See Verbs.) In some of these languages, listeners rely on this marking to help them understand who the subject is. Speakers will use a pronoun, noun phrase, or proper name only when they want either to emphasize or to clarify who the subject is.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- If translators use a pronoun at the wrong time for their language, readers might not know about whom the writer is talking.
- If translators too frequently refer to a main character by name, listeners of some languages might not realize that the person is a main character, or they might think that there is a new character with the same name.
- If translators use pronouns, nouns, or names at the wrong time, people might think that there is some special emphasis on the person or thing to which it refers.

Examples From the Bible

The example below occurs at the beginning of a chapter. In some languages it might not be clear to whom the pronouns refer.

Then Jesus entered into the synagogue again, and there was a man who had a withered hand. Some people watched **him** closely to see if **he** would heal **him** on the Sabbath so that they might accuse **him**. (Mark 3:1-2 ULT)

In the example below, two men are named in the first sentence. It might not be clear whom “he” in the second sentence refers to.

Now after some days had passed, **King Agrippa** and Bernice came down to Caesarea to pay their respects to **Festus**. After **he** had been there for many days, Festus presented to the king the things concerning Paul. (Acts 25:13-14)

Jesus is the main character of the book of Matthew, but in the verses below he is referred to four times by name. This may lead speakers of some languages to think that Jesus is not the main character. Or it might lead them to think that there is more than one person named Jesus in this story. Or it might lead them to think that there is some kind of emphasis on him, even though there is no emphasis.

At that time **Jesus** went on the Sabbath day through the grainfields. **His** disciples were hungry and began to pluck heads of grain and eat them. But when the Pharisees saw that, they said to **Jesus**, “See, your disciples do what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath.” But **Jesus** said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was hungry, and the men who were with him?” Then **Jesus** left from there and went into their synagogue. (Matthew 12:1-3,9 ULT)

Translation Strategies

- (1) If it would not be clear to your readers to whom or to what a pronoun refers, use a name or a noun.
- (2) If repeating a noun or name would lead people to think that a main character is not a main character, or that the writer is talking about more than one person with that name, or that there is some kind of emphasis on someone when there is no emphasis, use a pronoun instead.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) If it would not be clear to your readers to whom or to what a pronoun refers, use a name or a noun.

Again **he** walked into the synagogue, and a man with a withered hand was there. Some Pharisees watched **him** to see if **he** would heal the man on the Sabbath. (Mark 3:1-2)

Again **Jesus** walked into the synagogue, and a man with a withered hand was there. Some Pharisees watched **Jesus** to see if **he** would heal the man on the Sabbath.

- (2) If repeating a noun or name would lead people to think that a main character is not a main character, or that the writer is talking about more than one person with that name, or that there is some kind of emphasis on someone when there is no emphasis, use a pronoun instead.

At that time **Jesus** went on the Sabbath day through the grainfields. **His** disciples were hungry and began to pluck heads of grain and eat them. But when the Pharisees saw that, they said to **Jesus**, “See, your disciples do what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath.” But **Jesus** said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was hungry, and the men who were with him?” Then **Jesus** left from there and went into their synagogue. (Matthew 12:1-3,9 ULT)

This may be translated as:

At that time **Jesus** went on the Sabbath day through the grainfields. **His** disciples were hungry and began to pluck heads of grain and eat them. But when the Pharisees saw that, they said to **him**, “See, your disciples do what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath.” But **he** said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was hungry, and the men who were with him?” Then **he** left from there and went into their synagogue.

(Go back to: Exodus 1:7; 1:14; 2:5; 2:20; 3:18; 3:20; 4:2; 4:5; 4:8; 4:9; 4:14; 4:18; 4:24; 4:26; 4:28; 5:16; 5:20; 8:19; 14:9; 14:26; 18:21; 20:5; 21:31; 22:17; 24:2; 29:1; 29:3; 29:8; 29:24; 31:11; 32:2; 32:4; 32:10; 34:5; 34:28; 40:20; 40:21)

Quotations and Quote Margins

Description

This page answers the question: *What are quote margins and where should I put them?*

When saying that someone said something, we often tell who spoke, whom they spoke to, and what they said. The information about who spoke and whom they spoke to is called the quote margin. What the person said is the quotation. (This is also called a quote.) In some languages the quote margin may come first, last, or even in between two parts of the quotation.

The quote margins are bolded below.

- **She said**, “The food is ready. Come and eat.”
- “The food is ready. Come and eat,” **she said**.
- “The food is ready,” **she said**. “Come and eat.”

Also in some languages, the quote margin may have more than one verb meaning “said.”

But his mother **answered** and **said**, “No. Rather, he will be called John.” (Luke 1:60 ULT)

When writing that someone said something, some languages put the quote (what was said) in quotation marks called inverted commas (“ ”). Some languages use other symbols around the quotation, such as these angle quote marks (« »), or something else.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- Translators need to put the quote margin where it is most clear and natural in their language.
- Translators need to decide whether they want the quote margin to have one or two verbs meaning “said.”
- Translators need to decide which marks to use around the quotation.

Examples From the Bible

Quote margin before the quote

Then Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know this? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in her days.” (Luke 1:18 ULT)

Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and **they said to him**, “Teacher, what should we do?” (Luke 3:12 ULT)

So **he said to them**, “Collect nothing more than what you have been ordered.” (Luke 3:13 ULT)

Quote margin after the quote

Yahweh relented concerning this. “It will not happen,” **he said**. (Amos 7:3 ULT)

Quote margin between two parts of the quote

“I will hide my face from them,” **he said**, “and I will see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, children who are unfaithful.” (Deuteronomy 32:20 ULT)

For look, days are coming—**this is Yahweh’s declaration**—when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah. (Jeremiah 30:3a ULT)

Translation Strategies

- (1) Decide where to put the quote margin.
- (2) Decide whether to use one or two words meaning “said.”

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Decide where to put the quote margin.

He said, “Therefore, those among you who are leaders should go down with us. If there is something wrong with the man, let them accuse him.” (Acts 25:5 ULT)

“Therefore, those who can should go there with us,” **he said**. “If there is something wrong with the man, you should accuse him.”

“Therefore, those who can should go there with us. If there is something wrong with the man, you should accuse him,” **he said**.

“Therefore, those who can,” **he said**, “should go there with us. If there is something wrong with the man, you should accuse him.”

- (2) Decide whether to use one or two words meaning “said.”

But his mother **answered and said**, “No. Rather, he will be called John.” (Luke 1:60 ULT)

But his mother **replied**, “No. Rather, he will be called John.”

But his mother **said**, “No. Rather, he will be called John.”

But his mother **answered** like this. “No. Rather, he will be called John,” she **said**.

Next we recommend you learn about:
[Direct and Indirect Quotations](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 33:20](#); [33:21](#); [34:1](#))

Quote Markings

Description

Some languages use quotation marks to mark off direct quotes from the rest of the text. English uses the mark " immediately before a quote and " immediately after it.

- John said, "I do not know when I will arrive."

Quotation marks are not used with indirect quotes.

- John said that he did not know when he would arrive.

When there are several layers of quotations inside of other quotations, it might be hard for readers to understand who is saying what. Alternating two kinds of quotation marks can help careful readers to keep track of them. In English, the outermost quotation has double quote marks, and the next quotation within it has single marks. If there is a third embedded quote, that quotation again has double quotation marks.

- Mary said, "John said, 'I do not know when I will arrive.'"
- Bob said, "Mary told me, 'John said, "I do not know when I will arrive.''"

Some languages use other kinds of quotation marks: Here are some examples: , ' ' „ " " < > « » 7 — .

Examples From the Bible

The examples below show the kind of quotation markings used in the ULT.

A quotation with only one layer

A first layer direct quote has double quotation marks around it.

So the king replied, "That is Elijah the Tishbite." (2 Kings 1:8b ULT)

Quotations with two layers

A second layer direct quote has single quotation marks around it. We have printed it and the phrase in bold type for you to see them clearly.

They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, '**Pick it up and walk?**'" (John 5:12 ULT)

He sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you. As you enter, you will find a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it to me. If any one asks you, '**Why are you untying it?**' you will say thus, '**The Lord has need of it.**'" (Luke 19:29b-31 ULT)

A quotation with three layers

A third layer direct quote has double quotation marks around it. We have printed it in bold type for you to see them clearly.

Abraham said, "Because I thought, 'Surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.' Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife. When God caused me to leave my father's

This page answers the question: *How can quotes be marked, especially when there are quotes within quotes?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Direct and Indirect Quotations](#)

house and travel from place to place, I said to her, 'You must show me this faithfulness as my wife: At every place where we go, say about me, "**He is my brother.**"' (Genesis 20:11-13 ULT)

A quotation with four layers

A fourth layer direct quote has single quotation marks around it. We have printed it in bold for you to see it clearly.

They said to him, "A man came to meet us who said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, "Yahweh says this: '**Is it because there is no God in Israel that you sent men to consult with Baal Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not come down from the bed to which you have gone up; instead, you will certainly die.**' " " " (2 Kings 1:6 ULT)

Quote Marking Strategies

Here are some ways you may be able to help readers see where each quote starts and ends so they can more easily know who said what.

- (1) Alternate two kinds of quote marks to show layers of direct quotation. English alternates double quote marks and single quote marks.
- (2) Translate one or some of the quotes as indirect quotes in order to use fewer quote marks, since indirect quotes do not need them. (See [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#).)
- (3) If a quotation is very long and has many layers of quotation in it, indent the main overall quote, and use quote marks only for the direct quotes inside of it.

Examples of Quote Marking Strategies Applied

- (1) Alternate two kinds of quotation marks to show layers of direct quotation as shown in the ULT text below.

They said to him, "A man came to meet us who said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, "Yahweh says this: 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you sent men to consult with Baal Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not come down from the bed to which you have gone up; instead, you will certainly die.'" " (2 Kings 1:6 ULT)

- (2) Translate one or more of the quotes as indirect quotes in order to use fewer quotation marks, since indirect quotes do not need them. In English, the word "that" can introduce an indirect quote. In the example below, everything after the word "that" is an indirect quote of what the messengers said to the king. Within that indirect quote, there are some direct quotes marked with double and single quotation marks.

They said to him, "A man came to meet us who said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, "Yahweh says this: 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you sent men to consult with Baal Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not come down from the bed to which you have gone up; instead, you will certainly die.'" " (2 Kings 1:6 ULT)

They told him **that** a man came to meet them who said to them, "Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, 'Yahweh says this: "Is it because there is no God in Israel that you sent men to consult with Baal Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not come down from the bed to which you have gone up; instead, you will certainly die.'" "

- (3) If a quotation is very long and has many layers of quotation in it, indent the main overall quote, and use quote marks only for the direct quotes inside of it.

They said to him, "A man came to meet us who said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, "Yahweh says this: 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you sent men to consult with Baal Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not come down from the bed to which you have gone up; instead, you will certainly die.'"" (2 Kings 1:6 ULT)

They said to him,

A man came to meet us who said to us, "Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, 'Yahweh says this: "Is it because there is no God in Israel that you sent men to consult with Baal Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not come down from the bed to which you have gone up; instead, you will certainly die.'""

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Quotes within Quotes](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:9](#); [2:6](#); [2:22](#); [3:3](#); [3:6](#); [3:7](#); [3:15](#); [3:16](#); [3:17](#); [3:22](#); [4:1](#); [4:5](#); [4:21](#); [4:22](#); [4:23](#); [4:26](#); [5:1](#); [5:17](#); [6:1](#); [7:1](#); [7:9](#); [7:18](#); [8:4](#); [8:5](#); [8:20](#); [8:23](#); [9:1](#); [9:19](#); [10:3](#); [11:1](#); [12:2](#); [13:2](#); [14:2](#); [25:2](#); [30:10](#); [31:13](#); [31:14](#); [32:8](#))

Quotes within Quotes

Description

A quotation may have a quote within it, and quotes that are inside of other quotes can also have quotes within them. When a quote has quotes within it, we say there are “layers” of quotation, and each of the quotes is a layer. When there are many layers of quotes inside of quotes, it can be hard for listeners and readers to know who is saying what. Some languages use a combination of direct quotes and indirect quotes to make it easier.

This page answers the question: *What is a quote within a quote, and how can I help the readers understand who is saying what?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Direct and Indirect Quotations](#)

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

When there is a quote within a quote, the listener needs to know who the pronouns refer to. For example: if a quote that is inside a quote has the word “I,” the listener needs to know whether “I” refers to the speaker of the inner quote or the outer quote.

Some languages make this clear by using different kinds of quotes when there are quotes within quotes. They may use direct quotes for some and indirect quotes for others. Some languages do not use indirect quotes.

Examples From the Bible

A quotation with only one layer

But Paul said, “I, however, was indeed born a citizen.” (Acts 22:28b ULT)

Quotations with two layers

Jesus answered and said to them, “Be careful that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name. They will say, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will lead many astray.” (Matthew 24:4-5 ULT)

The outermost layer is what Jesus said to his disciples. The second layer is what other people will say.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king.” (John 18:37b ULT)

The outermost layer is what Jesus said to Pilate. The second layer is what Pilate said about Jesus.

A quotation with three layers

Abraham said, “... I said to her, ‘You must show me this faithfulness as my wife: At every place where we go, say about me, “**He is my brother.**”’” (Genesis 20:11a, 13 ULT)

The outermost layer is what Abraham responded to Abimelech. The second layer is what Abraham had told his wife. The third layer is what he wanted his wife to say. (We have bolded the third layer.)

A quotation with four layers

They said to him, "A man came to meet us who said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, "Yahweh says this: **'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you sent men to consult with Baal- Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not come down from the bed to which you have gone up; instead, you will certainly die.'**"'" (2 Kings 1:6 ULT)

The outermost layer is what the messengers said to the king. The second layer is what the man who had met the messengers told them. The third is what that man wanted the messengers to say to the king. The fourth is what Yahweh said. (We have bolded the fourth layer.)

Translation Strategies

Some languages use only direct quotes. Other languages use a combination of direct quotes and indirect quotes. In those languages it might sound strange and perhaps even be confusing if there are many layers of direct quotes.

- (1) Translate all of the quotes as direct quotes.
- (2) Translate one or some of the quotes as indirect quotes. (See [Direct and Indirect Quotations](#).)

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Translate all of the quotes as direct quotes. In the example below we have bolded the indirect quotes in the ULT and the quotes that we have changed to direct quotes below it.

Festus presented to the king the things concerning Paul, saying, "There is a certain man was left here as a prisoner by Felix. So I am uncertain about the things concerning this matter. I asked **if he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there to be judged concerning these things**. But when Paul appealed **to keep him in custody for the decision of the emperor**, I ordered him **to be held in custody until when I could send him to Caesar.**" (Acts 25:14b, 20-21 ULT)

Festus presented Paul's case to the king. He said, "A certain man was left behind here by Felix as a prisoner. I was uncertain about the things concerning this matter. I asked him, **'Will you go to Jerusalem to be judged there concerning these things?'** But when Paul said, **'I want to be kept in custody for the emperor's decision,'** I told the guard, **'Keep him in custody until when I can send him to Caesar.'**"

(2) Translate one or some of the quotes as indirect quotes. In English the word "that" can come before indirect quotes. It is bolded in the examples below. The pronouns that changed because of the indirect quote are also bolded.

And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, "I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Speak to them and say, 'During the evenings you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be satisfied with bread. And you will know that I am Yahweh your God.'" (Exodus 16:11-12 ULT)

And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying, "I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Tell them **that** during the evenings **they** will eat meat, and in the morning **they** will be satisfied with bread. And **they** will know that I am Yahweh **their** God."

They said to him, "A man came to meet us who said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, "Yahweh says this: 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you sent men to consult with Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not come down from the bed to which you have gone up; instead, you will certainly die.'"" (2 Kings 1:6 ULT)

They told him **that** a man had come to meet **them** who said to **them**, "Go back to the king who sent you, and tell him **that** Yahweh says this: 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you sent men to consult with Baal Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not come down from the bed to which you have gone up; instead, you will certainly die.'"

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Quote Markings](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:13](#); [3:14](#); [3:15](#); [3:17](#); [4:1](#); [4:22](#); [5:10](#); [7:16](#); [7:17](#); [8:1](#); [9:1](#); [12:26](#); [13:8](#); [13:14](#); [16:9](#); [19:12](#); [19:23](#); [32:8](#); [32:12](#); [32:21](#); [32:23](#); [32:24](#); [33:1](#))

Reflexive Pronouns

Description

All languages have ways of showing that the same person fills two different roles in a sentence. English does this by using reflexive pronouns. These are pronouns that refer to someone or something that has already been mentioned in a sentence. In English the reflexive pronouns are: “myself,” “yourself,” “himself,” “herself,” “itself,” “ourselves,” “yourselves,” and “themselves.” Other languages may have other ways to show this.

This page answers the question: *What are reflexive pronouns?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Pronouns](#)

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-sentences]]

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

- Languages have different ways of showing that the same person fills two different roles in a sentence. For those languages, translators will need to know how to translate the English reflexive pronouns.
- The reflexive pronouns in English also have other functions.

Uses of Reflexive Pronouns

- To show that the same person or things fills two different roles in a sentence
- To emphasize a person or thing in the sentence
- To show that someone did something alone
- To show that someone or something was alone

Examples From the Bible

Reflexive pronouns are used to show the same person or thing fills two different roles in a sentence.

If **I** should testify about **myself**, my testimony would not be true. (John 5:31 ULT)

Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and **many** went up to Jerusalem from the country before the Passover in order to purify **themselves**. (John 11:55 ULT)

Reflexive pronouns are used to emphasize a person or thing in the sentence.

Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were. (John 4:2 ULT)

So they left the crowd, taking Jesus with them, just as he was, in the boat. There also were other boats with him. Then a violent windstorm arose and the waves were breaking into the boat so that the boat was already full of water. But **Jesus himself** was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. (Mark 4:36-38a ULT)

Reflexive pronouns are used to show that someone did something alone.

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and seize him by force to make him king, he withdrew again up the mountain **by himself**. (John 6:15 ULT)

Reflexive pronouns are used to show that someone or something was alone.

He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth that had been on his head. **It** was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a place **by itself**. (John 20:6b-7 ULT)

Translation Strategies

If a reflexive pronoun would have the same function in your language, consider using it. If not, here are some other strategies.

- (1) In some languages people put something on the verb to show that the object of the verb is the same as the subject.
- (2) In some languages people emphasize a certain person or thing by referring to it in a special place in the sentence.
- (3) In some languages people emphasize a certain person or thing by adding something to that word or putting another word with it.
- (4) In some languages people show that someone did something alone by using a word like “alone.”
- (5) In some languages people show that something was alone by using a phrase that tells about where it was.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) In some languages people modify the verb to show that the object of the verb is the same as the subject.

If I should testify about **myself** alone, my testimony would not be true. (John 5:31)

“If I should **self-testify** alone, my testimony would not be true.”

Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem from the country before the Passover in order to **purify themselves**. (John 11:55)

“Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem out from country before the Passover in order to **self-purify**.”

- (2) In some languages people emphasize a certain person or thing by referring to it in a special place in the sentence.

He himself took our sickness and bore our diseases. (Matthew 8:17 ULT)

“**It was he who** took our sickness and bore our diseases.”

Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were. (John 4:2)

“**It was not Jesus who** was baptizing, but his disciples were.”

- (3) In some languages people emphasize a certain person or thing by adding something to that word or putting another word with it. English adds the reflexive pronoun.

But Jesus said this to test Philip, for he **himself** knew what he was going to do. (John 6:6)

- (4) In some languages people show that someone did something alone by using a word like “alone.”

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and seize him by force to make him king, he withdrew again up the mountain **by himself**. (John 6:15)

“When Jesus realized that they were about to come and seize him by force to make him king, he withdrew again **alone** up the mountain.”

- (5) In some languages people show that something was alone by using a phrase that tells about where it was.

He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth that had been on his head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a place **by itself**. (John 20:6b-7 ULT)

“He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth that had been on his head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up and lying **in its own place.**”

(Go back to: [Exodus 5:11](#); [5:19](#); [7:18](#); [9:17](#); [10:28](#); [14:14](#); [32:1](#); [32:7](#); [32:24](#); [33:6](#); [34:8](#); [34:12](#))

Rhetorical Question

A rhetorical question is a question that a speaker asks when he is more interested in expressing his attitude about something than in getting information about it. Speakers use rhetorical questions to express deep emotion or to encourage hearers to think deeply about something. The Bible contains many rhetorical questions, often to express surprise, to rebuke or scold the hearer, or to teach. Speakers of some languages use rhetorical questions for other purposes as well.

This page answers the question: *What are rhetorical questions and how can I translate them?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro\]\]](#)

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-sentencetypes\]\]](#)

Description

A rhetorical question is a question that strongly expresses the speaker's attitude toward something. Often the speaker is not looking for information at all. Or, if he is asking for information, it is not usually the information that the question appears to ask for. The speaker is more interested in expressing his attitude than in getting information.

But those who stood by said, **“Are you insulting the high priest of God?”**(Acts 23:4 ULT)

The people who asked Paul this question were not asking if he was insulting God's high priest. Rather, they used this question to accuse Paul of insulting the high priest.

The Bible contains many rhetorical questions. These rhetorical questions might be used for the purposes: of expressing attitudes or feelings, rebuking people, teaching something by reminding people of something they know and encouraging them to apply it to something new, or introducing something they want to talk about.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- Some languages do not use rhetorical questions; for them a question is always a request for information.
- Some languages use rhetorical questions, but for purposes that are different or more limited than in the Bible.
- Because of these differences between languages, some readers might misunderstand the purpose of a rhetorical question in the Bible.

Examples From the Bible

Do you not still rule the kingdom of Israel? (1 Kings 21:7b ULT)

Jezebel used the question above to remind King Ahab of something he already knew: he still ruled the kingdom of Israel. The rhetorical question made her point more strongly than if she had merely stated it, because it forced Ahab to admit the point himself. She did this in order to rebuke him for being unwilling to take over a poor man's property. She was implying that, since he was the king of Israel, he had the power to take the man's property.

Will a virgin forget her jewelry, a bride her veils? Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number! (Jeremiah 2:32 ULT)

God used the question above to remind his people of something they already knew: a young woman would never forget her jewelry or a bride forget her veils. He then rebuked his people for forgetting him who is so much greater than those things.

Why did I not die when I came out from the womb? (Job 3:11a ULT)

Job used the question above to show deep emotion. This rhetorical question expresses how sad he was that he did not die as soon as he was born. He wished that he had not lived.

And how has this happened to me that the mother of my Lord would come to me? (Luke 1:43 ULT)

Elizabeth used the question above to show how surprised and happy she was that the mother of her Lord came to her.

Or what man is there among you, of whom his son will ask for a loaf of bread, but he will give him a stone? (Matthew 7:9 ULT)

Jesus used the question above to remind the people of something they already knew: a good father would never give his son something bad to eat. By introducing this point, Jesus could go on to teach them about God with his next rhetorical question:

Therefore, if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him? (Matthew 7:11 ULT)

Jesus used this question to teach the people in an emphatic way that God gives good things to those who ask him.

What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed that a man took and threw into his garden ... (Luke 13:18b-19a ULT)

Jesus used the question above to introduce what he was going to talk about. He was about to compare the kingdom of God to something. In this case, he compared the kingdom of God to a mustard seed.

Translation Strategies

In order to translate a rhetorical question accurately, first be sure that the question you are translating truly is a rhetorical question and is not an information question. Ask yourself, "Does the person asking the question already know the answer to the question?" If so, it is a rhetorical question. Or, if no one answers the question, did the person who asked it expect to receive an answer? If not, it is a rhetorical question.

When you are sure that the question is rhetorical, then be sure that you understand the purpose for the rhetorical question. Is it to encourage or rebuke or shame the hearer? Is it to bring up a new topic? Is it to do something else?

When you know the purpose of the rhetorical question, then think of the most natural way to express that purpose in the target language. It might be as a question, or a statement, or an exclamation.

If using the rhetorical question would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider doing so. If not, here are other options:

- (1) Add the answer after the question.
- (2) Change the rhetorical question to a statement or exclamation.
- (3) Change the rhetorical question to a statement, and then follow it with a short question.
- (4) Change the form of the question so that it communicates in your language what the original speaker communicated in his.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Add the answer after the question.

Will a virgin forget her jewelry, a bride her veils? Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number! (Jeremiah 2:32 ULT)

Will a virgin forget her jewelry, a bride her veils? **Of course not!** Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number!

Or what man is there among you, of whom his son will ask for a loaf of bread, but he will give him a stone? (Matthew 7:9 ULT)

Or what man is there among you, of whom his son will ask for a loaf of bread, but he will give him a stone? **None of you would do that!**

(2) Change the rhetorical question to a statement or exclamation.

What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed. (Luke 13:18-19a ULT)

This is what the kingdom of God is like. It is like a mustard seed ...

Are you insulting the high priest of God? (Acts 23:4b ULT) (Acts 23:4 ULT)

You should not insult God's high priest!

Why did I not die when I came out from the womb? (Job 3:11a ULT)

I wish I had died when I came out from the womb!

And how has this happened to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (Luke 1:43 ULT)

How wonderful it is that the mother of my Lord has come to me!

(3) Change the rhetorical question to a statement, and then follow it with a short question.

Do you not still rule the kingdom of Israel? (1 Kings 21:7b ULT)

You still rule the kingdom of Israel, **do you not?**

(4) Change the form of the question so that it communicates in your language what the original speaker communicated in his.

Or what man is there among you, of whom his son will ask for a loaf of bread, but he will give him a stone? (Matthew 7:9 ULT)

If your son asks you for a loaf of bread, **would you give him a stone?**

Will a virgin forget her jewelry, a bride her veils? Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number! (Jeremiah 2:32 ULT)

What virgin would forget her jewelry, and what bride would forget her veils? Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:14](#); [2:20](#); [3:11](#); [4:11](#); [4:14](#); [5:4](#); [5:14](#); [5:22](#); [6:12](#); [6:30](#); [8:26](#); [10:7](#); [Notes](#); [14:5](#); [14:11](#); [14:12](#); [14:15](#); [15:11](#); [16:7](#); [16:8](#); [16:28](#); [Formatting](#); [17:2](#); [17:3](#); [18:14](#); [22:27](#); [32:11](#); [32:12](#); [33:16](#))

Simile

Description

A simile is a comparison of two things that are not normally thought to be similar. The simile focuses on a particular trait the two items have in common, and it includes the words “like,” “as,” or “than.”

This page answers the question: *What is a simile?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro]]

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were troubled and discouraged, **like sheep not having a shepherd**. (Matthew 9:36)

Jesus compared the crowds of people to sheep without a shepherd. Sheep grow frightened when they do not have a good shepherd to lead them in safe places. The crowds were like that because they did not have good religious leaders.

See, I send you out **as sheep in the midst of wolves**, so be as wise **as the serpents** and harmless **as the doves**. (Matthew 10:16 ULT)

Jesus compared his disciples to sheep and their enemies to wolves. Wolves attack sheep; Jesus' enemies would attack his disciples.

For the word of God is living and active and sharper **than any two-edged sword**. (Hebrews 4:12a ULT)

God's word is compared to a two-edged sword. A two-edged sword is a weapon that can easily cut through a person's flesh. God's word is very effective in showing what is in a person's heart and thoughts.

Purposes of Simile

- A simile can teach about something that is unknown by showing how it is similar to something that is known.
- A simile can emphasize a particular trait, sometimes in a way that gets people's attention.
- Similes help form a picture in the mind or help the reader experience what he is reading about more fully.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- People may not know how the two items are similar.
- People may not be familiar with both of the items being compared.

Examples From the Bible

Suffer hardship with me, **as a good soldier** of Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 2:3 ULT)

In this simile, Paul compares suffering with what soldiers endure, and he encourages Timothy to follow their example.

Just as the lightning flashing from a place under the sky shines to another place under the sky, so will the Son of Man be. (Luke 17:24b ULT)

This verse does not tell how the Son of Man will be like the lightning. But in context we can understand from the verses before it that just as lighting flashes suddenly and everyone can see it, the Son of Man will come suddenly and everyone will be able to see him. No one will have to be told about it.

Translation Strategies

If people would understand the correct meaning of a simile, consider using it. If they would not, here are some strategies you can use:

- (1) If people do not know how the two items are alike, tell how they are alike. However, do not do this if the meaning was not clear to the original audience.
- (2) If people are not familiar with the item that something is compared to, use an item from your own culture. Be sure that it is one that could have been used in the cultures of the Bible. If you use this strategy, you may want to put the original item in a footnote.
- (3) Simply describe the item without comparing it to another.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) If people do not know how the two items are alike, tell how they are alike. However, do not do this if the meaning was not clear to the original audience.

See, I send you out **as sheep in the midst of wolves**. (Matthew 10:16a ULT) — This compares the danger that Jesus' disciples would be in with the danger that sheep are in when they are surrounded by wolves.

See, I send **you out among wicked people** and you will be in danger from them **as sheep are in danger when they are among wolves**.

For the word of God is living and active and sharper **than any two-edged sword**. (Hebrews 4:12a ULT)

For the word of God is living and active and **more powerful than a very sharp two-edged sword**.

- (2) If people are not familiar with the item that something is compared to, use an item from your own culture. Be sure that it is one that could have been used in the cultures of the Bible. If you use this strategy, you may want to put the original item in a footnote.

See, I send you out **as sheep in the midst of wolves**, (Matthew 10:16a ULT) — If people do not know what sheep and wolves are, or that wolves kill and eat sheep, you could use some other animal that kills another.

See, I send you out **as chickens in the midst of wild dogs**.

How often did I long to gather your children together, just **as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings**, but you were not willing! (Matthew 23:37b ULT)

How often I wanted to gather your children together, **as a mother closely watches over her infants**, but you refused!

If you have faith **as a grain of mustard** ... (Matthew 17:20)

If you have faith even as small **as a tiny seed**,

- (3) Simply describe the item without comparing it to another.

See, I send you out **as sheep in the midst of wolves**. (Matthew 10:16a ULT)

See, I send you out among **people who will want to harm you**.

How often did I long to gather your children together, just **as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings**, but you were not willing! (Matthew 23:37b ULT)

How often I wanted to **protect you**, but you refused!

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Metaphor](#)

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/bita-part1]]

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:6](#); [4:16](#); [15:5](#); [15:7](#); [15:10](#); [15:16](#); [16:14](#); [19:18](#); [24:10](#); [24:17](#); [33:11](#); [34:12](#))

Singular Pronouns that refer to Groups

Description

The Bible was written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. These languages have a singular form of “you” for when the word “you” refers to just one person, and a plural form for when the word “you” refers to more than one person. However, sometimes speakers in the Bible used the singular form of “you” even though they were speaking to a group of people. This is not obvious when you read the Bible in English because English does not have different forms that indicate where “you” is singular and where “you” is plural. But you may see this if you read a Bible in a language that does have distinct forms.

This page answers the question: *How do I translate singular pronouns that refer to groups of people?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Forms of You](#)

[Forms of ‘You’ — Singular](#)

[Pronouns](#)

Also, speakers and writers of the Old Testament often referred to groups of people with the singular pronoun “he,” rather than with the plural pronoun “they.”

Finally, Old Testament speakers and writers sometimes referred to actions that they performed as part of a group by saying ‘I’ did it when, really, the whole group was involved.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

- For many languages, a translator who reads a Bible with a general form of “you” will need to know whether the speaker was speaking to one person or to more than one.
- In some languages, it might be confusing if a speaker uses a singular pronoun when speaking to or about more than one person.

Examples From the Bible

1 Now take heed that **you** do not do **your** acts of righteousness before people to be seen by them, otherwise **you** will not have a reward with **your** Father who is in heaven. 2 So when **you** give alms, do not sound a trumpet before **yourself** as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may have the praise of people. Truly I say to **you**, they have received their reward. (Matthew 6:1-2 ULT)

Jesus said this to a crowd. He used “you” plural in verse 1, and “you” singular in the first sentence of verse 2. Then, in the last sentence, he used the plural again.

God spoke all these words: “I am Yahweh, **your** God, who brought **you** out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **You** must have no other gods before me.” (Exodus 20:1-3 ULT)

God said this to all the people of Israel. He had taken them all out of Egypt and he wanted them all to obey him, but he used the singular form of you here when speaking to them.

This is what Yahweh says,
 “For three sins of Edom,
 even for four,
 I will not turn away punishment,
 because **he** pursued **his** brother with the sword
 and cast off all pity.
His anger raged continually,
 and **his** wrath lasted forever.” (Amos 1:11 ULT)

Yahweh said these things about the nation of Edom, not about only one person.

And I arose in the night, myself and a few men with me. And I was going up by the wadi at night, and I was looking intently at the wall. And I turned back, and I entered by the gate of the valley, and I returned. (Nehemiah 2:12a,15 ULT)

Nehemiah makes clear that he brought other people with him on his inspection tour of the wall of Jerusalem. But as he describes the tour, he just says “I” did this and that.

Translation Strategies

If the singular form of the pronoun would be natural when referring to a group of people, consider using it.

(1) If using the singular form of the pronoun when referring to a group of people would not be natural in your language, use the plural form of the pronoun.

- Whether you can use the singular form of the pronoun may depend on who the speaker is and who the people are that he is talking about or talking to.
- It may also depend on what the speaker is saying.

Translation Strategies Applied

(1) If using the singular form of the pronoun when referring to a group of people would not be natural in your language, use the plural form of the pronoun.

This is what Yahweh says,
 “For three sins of Edom,
 even for four,
 I will not turn away punishment,
 because **he** pursued **his** brother with the sword
 and cast off all pity.
His anger raged continually,
 and **his** wrath lasted forever.” (Amos 1:11 ULT)

This is what Yahweh says,
 “For three sins of Edom,
 even for four,
 I will not turn away punishment,
 because **they** pursued **their brothers** with the sword
 and cast off all pity.
Their anger raged continually,
 and **their** wrath lasted forever.”

And I arose in the night, myself and a few men with me. And **I** was going up by the wadi at night, and **I** was looking intently at the wall. And **I** turned back, and **I** entered by the gate of the valley, and **I** returned. (Nehemiah 2:12a,15 ULT)

And I arose in the night, myself and a few men with me. ... And **we** were going up by the wadi at night and **we** were looking intently at the wall. And **we** turned back and **we** entered by the gate of the valley, and **we** returned.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Forms of ‘You’ — Dual/Plural](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:24](#); [12:46](#); [12:48](#); [16:28](#); [Notes](#); [Notes](#))

Symbolic Action

Description

A symbolic action is something that someone does in order to express a certain idea. For example, in some cultures people nod their heads up and down to mean “yes” or turn their heads from side to side to mean “no.” Symbolic actions do not mean the same things in all cultures. In the Bible, sometimes people perform symbolic actions and sometimes they only refer to the symbolic action.

This page answers the question: *What is a symbolic action and how do I translate it?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Translate Unknowns](#)

Examples of symbolic actions

- In some cultures people shake hands when they meet to show that they are willing to be friendly.
- In some cultures people bow when they meet to show respect to each other.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

An action may have a meaning in one culture and a different meaning or no meaning at all in another culture. For example, in some cultures raising the eyebrows means “I am surprised” or “What did you say?” In other cultures it means “yes.”

In the Bible, people did things that had certain meanings in their culture. When we read the Bible, we might not understand what someone meant if we interpret the action based on what it means in our own culture today.

You (the translator) need to understand what people in the Bible meant when they used symbolic actions. If an action does not mean the same thing in your own culture, then you need to figure out how to translate what the action meant.

Examples From the Bible

And behold, a man came whose name was Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And **falling at the feet of Jesus**, he begged him to come to his house. (Luke 8:41 ULT)

Meaning of symbolic action: He did this to show great respect to Jesus.

Look, I am standing at the door and am knocking. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come into him and will eat with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20 ULT)

Meaning of symbolic action: When people wanted someone to welcome them into their home, they stood at the door and knocked on it.

Translation Strategies

If people would correctly understand what a symbolic action meant to the people in the Bible, consider using it. If not, here are some strategies for translating it.

- (1) Tell what the person did and why he did it.
- (2) Do not tell what the person did, but tell what he meant.

(3) Use an action from your own culture that has the same meaning. Do this only in poetry, parables, and sermons. Do not do this when there actually was a person who did a specific action.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) Tell what the person did and why he did it.

And **falling at the feet of Jesus** (Luke 8:41 ULT)

Jairus fell down at Jesus' feet in order to show that he greatly respected him.

Look, I am **standing at the door and am knocking**. (Revelation 3:20 ULT)

Look, I stand at the door and knock on it, asking you to let me in.

(2) Do not tell what the person did, but tell what he meant.

And **falling at the feet of Jesus** (Luke 8:41 ULT)

Jairus showed Jesus great respect.

Look, I am **standing at the door and am knocking**. (Revelation 3:20 ULT)

Look, I stand at the door and ask you to let me in.

(3) Use an action from your own culture that has the same meaning.

And **falling at the feet of Jesus** (Luke 8:41 ULT) — Since Jairus actually did this, you should not substitute an action from your own culture.

Look, I am **standing at the door and am knocking**. (Revelation 3:20 ULT) — Jesus was not standing at a real door. Rather he was speaking about wanting to have a relationship with people. So in cultures where it is polite to clear one's throat when wanting to be let into a house, you could use that.

Look, I stand at the door and clear my throat.

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:27](#); [4:31](#); [6:8](#); [9:29](#); [9:33](#); [11:8](#); [18:7](#); [18:13](#); [29:24](#); [29:26](#); [29:27](#); [34:14](#))

Synecdoche

Description

Synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a speaker uses a part of something to refer to the whole thing, or uses the whole to refer to a part.

■ **My soul** magnifies the Lord. (Luke 1:46b ULT)

Mary was very happy about what the Lord was doing, so she said “my soul,” which means the inner, emotional part of herself, to refer to her whole self.

■ So **the Pharisees** said to him, “Look, why are they doing that which is not lawful?” (Mark 2:24a ULT)

The Pharisees who were standing there did not all say the same words at the same time. Instead, it is more likely that one man representing the group said those words.

Reasons This Is a Translation Issue

- Some readers may not recognize the synecdoche and thus misunderstand the words as a literal statement.
- Some readers may realize that they are not to understand the words literally, but they may not know what the meaning is.

Example From the Bible

■ Then I looked on all the deeds that **my hands** had accomplished. (Ecclesiastes 2:11a ULT)

“My hands” is a synecdoche for the whole person because clearly the arms and the rest of the body and the mind were also involved in the person’s accomplishments. The hands are chosen to represent the person because they are the parts of the body most directly involved in the work.

Translation Strategies

If the synecdoche would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here is another option:

(1) State specifically what the synecdoche refers to.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) State specifically what the synecdoche refers to.

■ **“My soul** magnifies the Lord.” (Luke 1:46b ULT)

■ **“I** magnify the Lord.”

So **the Pharisees** said to him ... (Mark 2:24a ULT)

■ **A representative of the Pharisees** said to him ...

Then I looked on all the deeds that **my hands** had accomplished. (Ecclesiastes 2:11a ULT)

This page answers the question: *What is a synecdoche, and how can I translate such a thing into my language?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-intro]]

I looked on all the deeds that I had accomplished

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Metonymy](#)

[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/bita-part2]]

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:19](#); [2:20](#); [3:18](#); [4:13](#); [5:14](#); [6:6](#); [6:7](#); [8:6](#); [8:19](#); [9:14](#); [10:26](#); [10:28](#); [10:29](#); [12:23](#); [14:10](#); [17:10](#); [17:11](#); [27:21](#); [34:15](#); [35:21](#); [35:22](#); [35:26](#); [35:29](#); [35:35](#); [36:1](#); [36:8](#))

Textual Variants

Description

Thousands of years ago, people wrote the books of the Bible. Other people then copied them by hand and translated them. They did this work very carefully, and over the years many people made thousands of copies. However, people who looked at them later saw that there were small differences between them. Some copiers accidentally left out some words, or some mistook one word for another that looked like it. Occasionally, they added words or even whole sentences, either by accident or because they wanted to explain something. Modern Bibles are translations of the old copies. Some modern Bibles include some of these sentences that were added. In the ULT, these added sentences are usually written in footnotes.

Bible scholars have read many old copies and compared them with each other. For each place in the Bible where there was a difference, they have figured out which wordings are most likely correct. The translators of the ULT based the ULT on wordings that scholars say are most likely correct. Because people who use the ULT may have access to Bibles that are based on other copies, the ULT translators have sometimes included information about some of the differences between them, either in the ULT footnotes or in the unfoldingWord® Translation Notes.

Translators are encouraged to translate the text in the ULT and to write about added sentences in footnotes, as is done in the ULT. However, if the local church really wants those sentences to be included in the main text, translators may put them in the text and include a footnote about them.

This page answers the question: *Why does the ULT have missing or added verses, and should I translate them?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/translate-source-text\]\]](#)

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/translate-manuscripts\]\]](#)

Examples From the Bible

Matthew 18:10-11 ULT has a footnote about verse 11.

¹⁰ See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I say to you that in heaven their angels always look on the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹ ^[1]

[1] Many authorities, some ancient, insert v. 11: **For the Son of Man came to save that which was lost.**

John 7:53-8:11 is not in the best earliest manuscripts. It has been included in the ULT, but it is marked off with square brackets ([]) at the beginning and end, and there is a footnote after verse 11.

53 [Then everyone went to his own house ... 11 She said, "No one, Lord." Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."] ^[2]

[2] Some ancient manuscripts include John 7:53-8:11

Translation Strategies

When there is a textual variant, you may choose to follow the ULT or another version that you have access to.

- (1) Translate the verses as they are in the ULT and include the footnote that the ULT provides.
- (2) Translate the verses as another version has them, and change the footnote so that it fits this situation.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

The translation strategies are applied to Mark 7:14-16 ULT, which has a footnote about verse 16.

¹⁴ He called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand. ¹⁵ There is nothing from outside the man that can defile him when it enters into him. But the things that come out of the man are the things that defile the man.” ¹⁶ ^[1]

^[1] Some ancient manuscripts include verse 16: **If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.**

(1) Translate the verses as they are in the ULT and include the footnote that the ULT provides.

¹⁴ He called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand. ¹⁵ There is nothing from outside the man that can defile him when it enters into him. But the things that come out of the man are the things that defile the man.” ¹⁶ ^[1]

^[1] Some ancient manuscripts include verse 16: **If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.**

(2) Translate the verses as another version has them, and change the footnote so that it fits this situation.

¹⁴ He called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand. ¹⁵ There is nothing from outside the man that can defile him when it enters into him. But the things that come out of the man are the things that defile the man. ¹⁶ If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.” ^[1]

^[1] Some ancient manuscripts do not include verse 16.

Next we recommend you learn about:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/translate-chapverse\]\]](#)
[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/translate-manuscripts\]\]](#)
[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/translate-terms\]\]](#)
[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/translate-original\]\]](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 8:23](#))

Translate Unknowns

While working to translate the Bible, you (the translator) might find yourself asking: “How do I translate words like lion, fig tree, mountain, priest, or temple when people in my culture have never seen these things and we do not have a word for them?”

This page answers the question: *How can I translate ideas that my readers are not familiar with?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-sentences\]\]](#)

Description

Unknowns are things that occur in the source text that are not known to the people of your culture. The unfoldingWord® Translation Words pages and the unfoldingWord® Translation Notes will help you understand what they are. After you understand them, you will need to find ways to refer to those things so that people who read your translation will understand what they are.

They said to him, “We have nothing here except five loaves of **bread** and two fish.” (Matthew 14:17 ULT)

Bread is a particular food made by mixing finely crushed grains with oil, and then cooking the mixture so that it is dry. (Grains are the seeds of a kind of grass.) In some cultures people do not have bread and do not know what it is.

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

- Readers may not know some of the things that are in the Bible because those things are not part of their own culture.
- Readers may have difficulty understanding a text if they do not know some of the things that are mentioned in it.

Translation Principles

- Use words that are already part of your language if possible.
- Keep expressions short if possible.
- Represent God’s commands and historical facts accurately.

Examples From the Bible

So I will turn Jerusalem into piles of ruins, a hideout for **jackals**. (Jeremiah 9:11a ULT)

Jackals are wild animals like dogs that live in only a few parts of the world. So they are not known in many places.

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous **wolves**. (Matthew 7:15 ULT)

If wolves do not live where the translation will be read, the readers may not understand that they are fierce, wild animals like dogs that attack and eat sheep.

They offered him wine mixed with **myrrh**, but he did not drink it. (Mark 15:23 ULT)

People may not know what myrrh is and that it was used as a medicine.

... to him who made **great lights** ... (Psalm 136:7a ULT)

Some languages have terms for things that give light, like the sun and fire, but they have no general term for lights.

Your sins ... will be white like **snow**. (Isaiah 1:18b ULT)

People in many parts of the world have not seen snow, but they may have seen it in pictures.

Translation Strategies

Here are ways you might translate a term that is not known in your language:

- (1) Use a phrase that describes what the unknown item is, or what is important about the unknown item for the verse being translated.
- (2) Substitute something similar from your language if doing so does not falsely represent a historical fact.
- (3) Copy the word from another language, and add a general word or descriptive phrase to help people understand it.
- (4) Use a word that is more general in meaning.
- (5) Use a word or phrase that is more specific in meaning.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Use a phrase that describes what the unknown item is, or what is important about the unknown item for the verse being translated.

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but are inwardly they are **ravenous wolves**. (Matthew 7:15 ULT)

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but **inwardly they are very hungry and dangerous animals**.

"Ravenous wolves" is part of a metaphor here, so the reader needs to know that they are very dangerous to sheep in order to understand this metaphor. (If sheep are also unknown, then you will need to also use one of the translation strategies to translate sheep, or change the metaphor to something else, using a translation strategy for metaphors. See [Translating Metaphors](#).)

"We have nothing here except five **loaves of bread** and two fish." (Matthew 14:17 ULT)

We have nothing here except five **loaves of baked grain seeds** and two fish.

- (2) Substitute something similar from your language if doing so does not falsely represent a historical fact.

Your sins ... will be white like **snow**. (Isaiah 1:18b ULT) This verse is not about snow. It uses snow in a figure of speech to help people understand how white something will be.

Your sins ... will be white like **milk**.

Your sins ... will be white like **the moon**.

- (3) Copy the word from another language, and add a general word or descriptive phrase to help people understand it.

Then they tried to give Jesus wine that was mixed with **myrrh**. But he refused to drink it. (Mark 15:23 ULT) — People may understand better what myrrh is if it is used with the general word “medicine.”

Then they tried to give Jesus wine that was mixed with **a medicine called myrrh**. But he refused to drink it.

“We have nothing here except five **loaves of bread** and two fish.” (Matthew 14:17 ULT) — People may understand better what bread is if it is used with a phrase that tells what it is made of (seeds) and how it is prepared (crushed and baked).

We have nothing here except five loaves of **baked crushed seed bread** and two fish.

(4) Use a word that is more general in meaning.

I will turn Jerusalem into piles of ruins, a hideout for **jackals** (Jeremiah 9:11a ULT)

I will turn Jerusalem into piles of ruins, a hideout for **wild dogs**

“We have nothing here except five **loaves of bread** and two fish.” (Matthew 14:17 ULT)

We have nothing here except five **loaves of baked food** and two fish.

(5) Use a word or phrase that is more specific in meaning.

... to him who made **great lights** ... (Psalm 136:7a ULT)

to him who made **the sun and the moon**

Next we recommend you learn about:

[Copy or Borrow Words](#)

[How to Translate Names](#)

(Go back to: Exodus 1:14; 2:3; 2:16; 4:25; 5:8; 5:12; 6:26; 7:22; 8:7; 8:16; 8:17; 8:18; 8:19; 8:21; 8:22; 8:24; 8:29; 8:31; 9:9; 9:10; 9:11; 9:31; 9:32; 12:17; 12:22; 12:41; 12:51; 14:24; 15:20; 16:13; 16:14; 16:31; 22:6; 23:11; 23:28; 24:7; 24:10; 25:4; 25:5; 25:6; 25:7; 25:10; 25:12; 25:13; 25:29; 25:33; 26:1; 26:11; 26:14; 26:15; 26:17; 26:25; 26:26; 26:33; 26:36; 27:9; 27:19; 28:4; 28:5; 28:6; 28:9; 28:11; 28:13; 28:17; 28:18; 28:19; 28:20; 28:21; 28:22; 28:27; 28:30; 28:32; 28:33; 28:36; 28:37; 28:39; 28:40; 28:42; 29:2; 29:5; 29:6; 29:7; 29:9; 29:12; 29:13; 29:17; 29:22; 30:2; 30:18; 30:23; 30:24; 30:25; 30:34; 32:4; 33:4; 35:6; 35:7; 35:8; 35:9)

Verse Bridges

Description

In some cases, you will see in the unfoldingWord® Simplified Text (UST) that two or more verse numbers are combined, such as 17-18. This is called a verse bridge. This means that the information in the verses was rearranged so that the story or message could be more easily understood.

This page answers the question: *Why are some verse numbers combined in the UST, such as "3-5" or "17-18"?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/translate-bibleorg\]\]](https://en.ta/man/translate/translate-bibleorg)

29 These were the clans of the Horites: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, and Anah, 30 Dishon, Ezer, Dishan: these are clans of the Horites, according to their clan lists in the land of Seir. (Genesis 36:29-30 ULT)

29-30 The people groups who were descendants of Hor lived in Seir land. The names of the people groups are Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. (Genesis 36:29-30 UST)

In the ULT text, verses 29 and 30 are separate, and the information about the people living in Seir is at the end of verse 30. In the UST text, the verses are joined, and the information about them living in Seir is at the beginning. For many languages, this is a more logical order of information.

Examples From the Bible

Where the UST has a verse bridge, the ULT will have separate verses.

⁴⁻⁵ Yahweh our God will bless you in the land that he is giving to you. If you obey Yahweh our God and obey all the commandments that I am giving to you today, there will not be any poor people among you. (Deuteronomy 15:4-5 UST)

⁴ However, there should be no poor among you (for Yahweh will surely bless you in the land that he gives you as an inheritance to possess), ⁵ if only you diligently listen to the voice of Yahweh your God, to keep all these commandments that I am commanding you today. (Deuteronomy 15:4-5 ULT)

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ But Yahweh said to him, "I will not permit you to eat the fruit of the tree that will enable you to know what actions are good to do and what actions are evil to do. If you eat any fruit from that tree, on the day you eat it you will surely die. But I will permit you to eat the fruit of any of the other trees in the park." (Genesis 2:16-17 UST)

¹⁶ Yahweh God commanded the man, saying, "From every tree in the garden you may freely eat. ¹⁷ But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you may not eat, for on the day that you eat from it, you will surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17 ULT)

Translation Strategies

Order the information in a way that will be clear to your readers. If the order of information is clear as it is in the ULT, then use that order. But if the order is confusing or gives the wrong meaning, then change the order so that it is more clear.

(1) If you put information from one verse before information from an earlier verse, then combine the verses and put a hyphen between the two verse numbers.

See how to mark verses in [translationStudio](#).

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(1) If information from one verse is put before information from an earlier verse, then combine the verses and put the verse numbers before the first verse with a hyphen between them.

2 You must select three cities for yourself in the middle of your land that Yahweh your God is giving you to possess. 3 You must build a road and divide the borders of your land into three parts, the land that Yahweh your God is causing you to inherit, so that everyone who kills another person may flee there. (Deuteronomy 19:2-3 ULT)

2-3 You must divide into three parts the land that he is giving to you. Then select a city in each part. You must make good roads in order that people can get to those cities easily. Someone who kills another person can escape to one of those cities to be safe. (Deuteronomy 19:2-3 UST)

Next we recommend you learn about:

[\[\[rc://en/ta/man/translate/translate-chapverse\]\]](#)

(Go back to: [Exodus 33:4](#))

When Masculine Words Include Women

In the Bible, sometimes the words “men,” “brothers,” and “sons” refer only to men. At other times, those words include both men and women. In those places where the writer meant both men and women, you (the translator) need to translate it in a way that does not limit the meaning to men.

This page answers the question: *How do I translate “brother” or “he” when it could refer to anyone, male or female?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Pronouns](#)

[Generic Noun Phrases](#)

Description

In some languages a word that normally refers to men can also be used in a more general way to refer to both men and women. For example, the Bible sometimes says “brothers” when it refers to both brothers and sisters.

Also in some languages, the masculine pronouns “he” and “him” can be used in a more general way for any person if it is not important whether the person is a man or a woman. In the example below, the pronoun is “his,” but it is not limited to males.

A wise son makes **his** father rejoice
but a foolish son brings grief to **his** mother. (Proverbs 10:1 ULT)

Reason This Is a Translation Issue

- In some cultures words like “man,” “brother,” and “son” can only be used to refer to men. If those words are used in a translation in a more general way, people will think that what is being said does not apply to women.
- In some cultures, the masculine pronouns “he” and “him” can only refer to men. If a masculine pronoun is used, people will think that what is said does not apply to women.

Translation Principles

When a statement applies to both men and women, translate it in such a way that people will be able to understand that it applies to both.

Examples From the Bible

Now we want you to know, **brothers**, the grace of God that has been given to the churches of Macedonia. (2 Corinthians 8:1 ULT)

This verse is addressing the believers in Corinth, not only men, but **men and women**.

Then said Jesus to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow me, **he** must deny **himself**, take up **his** cross, and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24 ULT)

Jesus was not speaking only of men, but of **men and women**.

Caution: Sometimes masculine words are used specifically to refer to men. Do not use words that would lead people to think that they include women. The words below are specifically about men.

Moses said, ‘If **someone** dies, not having children, **his brother** must marry **his** wife and have children for **his brother**.’ (Matthew 22:24 ULT)

Translation Strategies

If people would understand that that masculine words like “man,” “brother,” and “he” can include women, then consider using them. Otherwise, here are some ways for translating those words when they include women.

- (1) Use a noun that can be used for both men and women.
- (2) Use a word that refers to men and a word that refers to women.
- (3) Use pronouns that can be used for both men and women.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

- (1) Use nouns that can be used for both men and women.

The wise **man** dies just like the fool dies. (Ecclesiastes 2:16b ULT)

“The wise **person** dies just like the fool dies.”
 “Wise **people** die just like fools die.”

- (2) Use a word that refers to men and a word that refers to women.

For we do not want you to be uninformed, **brothers**, about the troubles that happened to us in Asia. (2 Corinthians 1:8) — Paul was writing this letter to both men and women.

“For we do not want you to be uninformed, **brothers and sisters**, about the troubles that happened to us in Asia.”

- (3) Use pronouns that can be used for both men and women.

“If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.”
 (Matthew 16:24 ULT)

English speakers can change the masculine singular pronouns, “he,” “himself,” and “his” to plural pronouns that do not mark gender, “they,” “themselves,” and “their” in order to show that it applies to all people, not just men.

>

“If **people** want to follow me, **they** must deny **themselves**, take up **their** cross, and follow me.”

(Go back to: [Exodus 8:17](#); [8:18](#); [9:9](#); [9:10](#); [9:19](#); [9:22](#); [9:25](#); [10:7](#); [10:23](#); [12:4](#); [12:22](#); [12:24](#); [12:26](#); [33:4](#); [35:21](#); [35:22](#); [35:23](#); [36:1](#); [36:4](#))

When to Keep Information Implicit

Description

Sometimes it is better not to state assumed knowledge or implicit information explicitly. This page gives some direction about when not to do this.

This page answers the question: *When should I not make implicit information explicit?*

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

[Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#)
[[rc://en/ta/man/translate/figs-explicitinfo]]

Translation Principles

- If a speaker or author intentionally left something unclear, do not try to make it more clear.
- If the original audience did not understand what the speaker meant, do not make it so clear that your readers would find it strange that the original audience did not understand.
- If you need to explicitly state some assumed knowledge or implicit information, try to do it in a way that does not make your readers think that the original audience needed to be told those things.
- Do not make implicit information explicit if it confuses the message or leads the reader to forget what the main point is.
- Do not make assumed knowledge or implicit information explicit if your readers already understand it.

Examples From the Bible

From the eater came forth food;
and from the strong one came forth sweetness. (Judges 14:14 ULT)

This was a riddle. Samson purposely said this in a way that it would be hard for his enemies to know what it meant. Do not make it clear that the eater and the strong thing was a lion and that the sweet thing to eat was honey.

Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." They reasoned among themselves saying, "It is because we did not take bread." (Matthew 16:6-7 ULT)

Some possible implicit information here is that the disciples should beware of the false teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. But Jesus' disciples did not understand this. They thought that Jesus was talking about real yeast and bread. So it would not be appropriate to state explicitly that the word "yeast" here refers to false teaching. The disciples did not understand what Jesus meant until they heard what Jesus said in Matthew 16:11.

"How is it that you do not understand that I was not speaking to you about bread? Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Then they understood that he was not telling them to beware of yeast in bread, but to beware of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (Matthew 16:11-12 ULT)

Only after Jesus explained that he was not talking about bread did they realize that he was talking about the false teaching of the Pharisees. Therefore, it would be wrong to explicitly state the implicit information in Matthew 16:6.

Translation Strategies

Because we recommend that translators not change this kind of passage to make it more clear, this page does not have any translation strategies.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

Because we recommend that translators not change this kind of passage to make it more clear, this page does not have any translation strategies applied.

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:20](#))



unfoldingWord® Translation Words

Version 36

Aaron

Facts:

Aaron was Moses' older brother. God chose Aaron to be the first high priest for the people of Israel.

- Aaron helped Moses speak to Pharaoh about letting the Israelites go free.
- While the Israelites were traveling through the desert, Aaron sinned by making an idol for the people to worship.
- God also appointed Aaron and his descendants to be the [priest](#) priests for the people of Israel.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [priest](#), [Moses](#), [Israel](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 23:14
- Acts 7:38-40
- Exodus 28:1-3
- Luke 1:5
- Numbers 16:45

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **9:15** God warned Moses and **Aaron** that Pharaoh would be stubborn.
- **10:5** Pharaoh called Moses and **Aaron** and told them that if they stopped the plague, the Israelites could leave Egypt.
- **13:9** God chose Moses' brother, **Aaron**, and Aaron's descendants to be his priests.
- **13:11** So they (the Israelites) brought gold to **Aaron** and asked him to form it into an idol for them!
- **14:7** They (the Israelites) became angry with Moses and **Aaron** and said, "Oh, why did you bring us to this horrible place?"

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0175, G00020

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:14; 4:27; 4:28; 4:29; 4:30; 5:1; 5:4; 5:20; 6:13; 6:20; 6:23; 6:25; 6:26; 6:27; 7:1; 7:2; 7:6; 7:7; 7:8; 7:9; 7:10; 7:12; 7:19; 7:20; 8:5; 8:6; 8:8; 8:12; 8:16; 8:17; 8:25; 9:8; 9:27; 10:3; 10:8; 10:16; 11:10; 12:1; 12:28; 12:31; 12:43; 12:50; 15:20; 16:2; 16:6; 16:9; 16:10; 16:33; 16:34; 17:10; 17:12; 18:12; 19:24; 24:1; 24:9; 24:14; 27:21; 28:1; 28:2; 28:3; 28:4; 28:12; 28:29; 28:30; 28:35; 28:38; 28:40; 28:41; 28:43; 29:4; 29:5; 29:9; 29:10; 29:15; 29:19; 29:20; 29:21; 29:24; 29:26; 29:27; 29:28; 29:29; 29:32; 29:35; 29:44; 30:7; 30:8; 30:10; 30:19; 30:30; 31:10; 32:1; 32:2; 32:3; 32:5; 32:21; 32:22; 32:25; 32:35; 34:30; 34:31; 35:19; 38:21; 39:1; 39:27; 39:41; 40:12; 40:13; 40:31](#))

abomination, abominable

Definition:

The term “abomination” is used to refer to something that causes disgust or extreme dislike.

- The Egyptians considered the Hebrew people to be an “abomination.” This means that the Egyptians disliked the Hebrews and didn’t want to associate with them or be near them.
- Some of the things that the Bible calls “an abomination to Yahweh” include lying, pride, sacrificing humans, worship of idols, murder, and sexual sins such as adultery and homosexual acts.
- In teaching his disciples about the end times, Jesus referred to a prophecy by the prophet Daniel about an “abomination of desolation” that would be set up as a rebellion against God, defiling his place of worship.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “abomination” could also be translated by “something God hates” or “something disgusting” or “disgusting practice” or “very evil action.”
- Depending on the context, ways to translate the phrase “is an abomination to” could include “is greatly hated by” or “is disgusting to” or “is totally unacceptable to” or “causes deep disgust.”
- The phrase “abomination of desolation” could be translated as “defiling object that causes people to be greatly harmed” or “disgusting thing that causes great sorrow.”

(See also: [adultery](#), desecrate, [desolate](#), false god, [sacrifice](#))

Bible References:

- Ezra 9:1-2
- Genesis 46:34
- Isaiah 1:13
- Matthew 24:15
- Proverbs 26:25

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0887, H6292, H8251, H8262, H8263, H8441, G09460

(Go back to: [Exodus 8:26](#))

Abraham, Abram

Facts:

Abram was a Chaldean man from the city of Ur who was chosen by God to be the forefather of the Israelites. God changed his name to "Abraham."

- The name "Abram" means "exalted father."
- "Abraham" means "father of many."
- God promised Abraham that he would have many descendants, who would become a great nation.
- Abraham believed God and obeyed him. God led Abraham to move from Chaldea to the land of Canaan.
- Abraham and his wife Sarah, when they were very old and living in the land of Canaan, had a son, Isaac.

(Translation suggestions: [Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Canaan](#), Chaldea, Sarah, [Isaac](#))

Bible References:

- Galatians 3:8
- Genesis 11:29-30
- Genesis 21:4
- Genesis 22:2
- James 2:23
- Matthew 1:2

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **4:6** When **Abram** arrived in Canaan, God said, "Look all around you. I will give to you and your descendants all the land that you can see as an inheritance."
- **5:4** Then God changed **Abram's** name to **Abraham**, which means "father of many."
- **5:5** About a year later, when **Abraham** was 100 years old and Sarah was 90, Sarah gave birth to Abraham's son.
- **5:6** When Isaac was a young man, God tested **Abraham's** faith by saying, "Take Isaac, your only son, and kill him as a sacrifice to me."
- **6:1** When **Abraham** was very old and his son, Isaac, had grown to be a man, **Abraham** sent one of his servants back to the land where his relatives lived to find a wife for his son, Isaac.
- **6:4** After a long time, **Abraham** died and all of the promises that God had made to him in the covenant were passed on to Isaac.
- **21:2** God promised **Abraham** that through him all people groups of the world would receive a blessing.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0087, H0085, G00110

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:24](#); [3:6](#); [3:15](#); [3:16](#); [4:5](#); [6:3](#); [6:8](#); [32:13](#); [33:1](#))

Adam

Facts:

Adam was the first person whom God created. He and his wife Eve were made in the image of God.

- God formed Adam from dirt and breathed life into him.
- Adam's name sounds similar to the Hebrew word for "red dirt" or "ground."
- The name "Adam" is the same as the Old Testament word for "mankind" or "human being."
- All people are descendants of Adam and Eve.
- Adam and Eve disobeyed God. This separated them from God and caused sin and death to come into the world.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [death](#), [descendant](#), Eve, image of God, [life](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Timothy 2:14
- Genesis 3:17
- Genesis 5:1
- Genesis 11:5
- Luke 3:38
- Romans 5:15

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **1:9** Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image to be like us."
- **1:10** This man's name was **Adam**. God planted a garden where **Adam** could live, and put him there to care for it.
- **1:12** Then God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." But none of the animals could be **Adam's** helper.
- **2:11** And God clothed **Adam** and Eve with animal skins.
- **2:12** So God sent **Adam** and Eve away from the beautiful garden.
- **49:8** When **Adam** and Eve sinned, it affected all of their descendants.
- **50:16** Because **Adam** and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin into this world, God cursed it and decided to destroy it.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0120, G00760

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:11](#); [8:17](#); [8:18](#); [9:9](#); [9:10](#); [9:19](#); [9:22](#); [9:25](#); [12:12](#); [13:2](#); [13:13](#); [13:15](#))

admonish, warned, aware

Definition:

The term “admonish” means to firmly warn or advise someone.

- Usually “admonish” means to advise someone not to do something.
- In the body of Christ, believers are taught to admonish each other to avoid sin and to live holy lives.
- The word “admonish” could be translated as “encourage not to sin” or “urge someone to not sin.”

Bible References:

- Nehemiah 9:32-34

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2094, H5749, G35600, G38670, G55370

(Go back to: [Exodus 21:29](#))

adultery, adulterous, adulterer, adulteress

Definition:

The term “adultery” refers to a sin that occurs when a married person has sexual relations with someone who is not that person’s spouse. Both of them are guilty of adultery. The term “adulterous” describes this kind of behavior or any person who commits this sin.

- The term “adulterer” refers generally to any person who commits adultery.
- Sometimes the term “adulteress” is used to specify that it was a woman who committed adultery.
- Adultery breaks the promises that a husband and wife made to each other in their covenant of marriage.
- God commanded the Israelites to not commit adultery.

Translation Suggestions:

- If the target language does not have one word that means “adultery,” this term could be translated with a phrase such as “having sexual relations with someone else’s wife” or “being intimate with another person’s spouse.”
- Some languages may have an indirect way of talking about adultery, such as “sleeping with someone else’s spouse” or “being unfaithful to one’s wife.” (See: [euphemism](#))

(See also: [commit](#), [covenant](#), sexual immorality, [sleep with](#), [faithful](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 20:14
- Hosea 4:1-2
- Luke 16:18
- Matthew 5:28
- Matthew 12:39
- Revelation 2:22

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **13:6** “Do not commit **adultery**.”
- **28:2** Do not commit **adultery**.
- **34:7** “The religious leader prayed like this, ‘Thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like other men—such as robbers, unjust men, **adulterers**, or even like that tax collector.’”

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H5003, H5004, G34280, G34290, G34300, G34310, G34320

(Go back to: [Exodus 20:14](#))

adversary, enemy

Definition:

An “adversary” is a person (or group of people) who is opposed to someone else. The term “enemy” has a similar meaning.

- Your adversary can be a person who tries to oppose or harm another person.
- When two nations fight, each can be called an “adversary” of the other.
- In the Bible, the devil is referred to as an “adversary” and an “enemy.”
- The term “adversary” may be translated as “opponent” or “enemy,” but it suggests a stronger form of opposition.

(See also: Satan)

Bible References:

- 1 Timothy 5:14
- Isaiah 9:11
- Job 6:23
- Lamentations 4:12
- Luke 12:59
- Matthew 13:25

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0341, H6146, H6887, H6862, H6965, H7790, H7854, H8130, H8324, G04760, G04800, G21890, G21900, G52270

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:6](#); [15:9](#); [23:4](#); [23:22](#); [23:27](#))

advice, advise, advisor, counsel, counselor, counsels

Definition:

The terms “counsel” and “advice” have the same meaning and refer to helping someone decide wisely about what to do in a certain situation. A wise “counselor” or “advisor” is someone who gives advice or counsel that will help a person make right choices.

- Kings often have official advisors or counselors to help them decide important matters that affect the people they are ruling.
- Sometimes the advice or counsel that is given is not good. Evil advisors may urge a king to take action or make a decree that will harm him or his people.
- Depending on the context, “advice” or “counsel” could also be translated as “help in deciding” or “warnings” or “exhortations” or “guidance.”
- The action, to “counsel” could be translated as to “advise” or to “make suggestions” or to “exhort.”
- Note that “counsel” is a different word than “council,” which refers to a group of people.

(See also: [exhort](#), [Holy Spirit](#), [wise](#))

Bible References:

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1697, H1847, H1875, H1884, H1907, H3272, H3289, H3982, H4156, H4431, H5475, H5779, H6440, H6963, H6098, H7592, H8458, G10110, G10120, G11060, G48230, G48250

(Go back to: [Exodus 18:19](#))

afflict, affliction, distress

Definition:

The term "afflict" means to cause someone distress or suffering. An "affliction" is the disease, emotional grief, or other disaster that results from this.

- Sometimes God afflicted his people with sickness or other hardships with the intention for them to repent of their sins and turn back to him.
- God caused afflictions or plagues to come on the people of Egypt because their king refused to obey God.
- To "be afflicted with" means to suffer from some kind of distress, such as a disease, persecution, or emotional grief.
- In some Old Testament contexts, the idea of "afflicting oneself" or "afflicting one's soul" means to abstain from eating food.

Translation Suggestions:

- To "afflict" someone could be translated as "cause someone to experience troubles" or "cause someone to suffer" or "cause suffering to come."
- A phrase like "afflict someone with leprosy" could be translated as "cause someone to be sick with leprosy."
- When a disease or disaster is sent to "afflict" people or animals, this could be translated as "cause suffering to."
- Depending on the context, the term "affliction" could be translated as "calamity" or "sickness" or "suffering" or "great distress."
- The phrase "afflicted with" could also be translated as "suffering from" or "sick with."

(See also: [leprosy](#), [plague](#), [suffer](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Thessalonians 1:6
- Amos 5:12
- Colossians 1:24
- Exodus 22:22-24
- Genesis 12:17-20
- Genesis 15:12-13
- Genesis 29:32

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0205, H3013, H3905, H3906, H6031, H6039, H6040, H6041, H6862, H6869, H6887, H7451, H7489, G23460, G23470, G38040

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:11](#); [1:12](#); [3:7](#); [3:17](#); [4:31](#); [5:19](#); [5:22](#); [5:23](#); [22:22](#); [22:23](#))

alien, foreigner, sojourn

Definition:

The term “foreigner” refers to a person living in a country that is not his own. Another name for a foreigner is an “alien.” To sojourn is to live temporarily as a foreigner.

- In the Old Testament, this term especially refers to anyone who came from a different people group than the people he was living among.
- A foreigner is also a person whose language and culture is different from those of a particular region.
- For example, when Naomi and her family moved to Moab, they were foreigners there. When Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth later moved to Israel, Ruth was called a “foreigner” there because she was not originally from Israel.
- A sojourner is another word for a temporary foreign resident.
- The apostle Paul told the Ephesians that before they knew Christ, they were “foreigners” to God’s covenant.
- Sometimes “foreigner” is translated as “stranger,” but it should not refer only to someone who is unfamiliar or unknown.

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 2:17
- Acts 7:29-30
- Deuteronomy 1:15-16
- Genesis 15:12-13
- Genesis 17:27
- Luke 17:18
- Matthew 17:24-25

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0312, H0628, H0776, H1471, H1481, H1616, H2114, H3937, H4033, H5236, H5237, H6154, H8453, G02410, G02450, G05260, G09150, G18540, G35810, G39270, G39410

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:22](#); [6:4](#); [12:19](#); [12:43](#); [12:45](#); [12:48](#); [12:49](#); [18:3](#); [20:10](#); [21:8](#); [22:21](#); [23:9](#); [23:12](#))

Almighty

Facts:

The term "Almighty" literally means "all-powerful." In the Bible, this term always refers to God.

- The titles "the Almighty" or "the Almighty One" refer to God and reveal that he has complete power and authority over everything.
- This term is also used to describe God in the titles "Almighty God" and "God Almighty" and "Lord Almighty" and "Lord God Almighty."

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could also be translated as "All-powerful" or "Completely Powerful One" or "God, who is completely powerful."
- Ways to translate the phrase "Lord God Almighty" could include "God, the Powerful Ruler" or "Powerful Sovereign God" or "Mighty God who is Master over everything."

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [God](#), [lord](#), [power](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 6:2-5
- Genesis 17:1
- Genesis 35:11-13
- Job 8:3
- Numbers 24:15-16
- Revelation 1:7-8
- Ruth 1:19-21

Word Data:

- Strong's: H7706, G38410

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:3](#))

altar

Definition:

An altar was a raised structure on which the Israelites burned animals and grains as offerings to God.

- During Bible times, simple altars were often made by forming a mound of packed-down dirt or by carefully placing large stones to form a stable pile.
- Some special box-shaped altars were made of wood overlaid with metals such as gold, brass, or bronze.
- Other people groups living near the Israelites also built altars to offer sacrifices to their gods.

(See also: [altar of incense](#), false god, [grain offering](#), [sacrifice](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 8:20
- Genesis 22:9
- James 2:21
- Luke 11:49-51
- Matthew 5:23
- Matthew 23:19

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **3:14** After Noah got off the boat, he built an **altar** and sacrificed some of each kind of animal which could be used for a sacrifice.
- **5:8** When they reached the place of sacrifice, Abraham tied up his son Isaac and laid him on an **altar**.
- **13:9** A priest would kill the animal and burn it on the **altar**.
- **16:6** He (Gideon) built a new altar dedicated to God near where the **altar** to the idol used to be and made a sacrifice to God on it.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0741, H2025, H4056, H4196, G10410, G23790

(Go back to: [Exodus 17:15](#); [20:24](#); [20:25](#); [20:26](#); [21:14](#); [24:4](#); [24:6](#); [27:1](#); [27:5](#); [27:6](#); [27:7](#); [28:43](#); [29:12](#); [29:13](#); [29:16](#); [29:18](#); [29:20](#); [29:21](#); [29:25](#); [29:36](#); [29:37](#); [29:38](#); [29:44](#); [30:1](#); [30:18](#); [30:20](#); [30:27](#); [30:28](#); [31:9](#); [32:5](#); [34:13](#); [35:16](#); [37:25](#); [38:1](#); [38:3](#); [38:4](#); [38:7](#); [38:30](#); [39:39](#); [40:5](#); [40:6](#); [40:7](#); [40:10](#); [40:26](#); [40:29](#); [40:30](#); [40:32](#); [40:33](#))

altar of incense, incense altar

Facts:

The altar of incense was a piece of furniture on which a priest would burn incense as an offering to God. It was also called the golden altar.

- The altar of incense was made of wood, and its top and sides were covered with gold. It was about a half meter long, a half meter wide, and one meter tall.
- At first it was kept in the tabernacle. Then it was kept in the temple.
- Every morning and evening a priest would burn incense on it.
- This can also be translated as “altar for burning incense” or “golden altar” or “incense burner” or “incense table.”

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [incense](#))

Bible References:

- Luke 1:11-13

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4196, H7004, G23680, G23790

(Go back to: [Exodus 35:15](#); [39:38](#))

Amalek, Amalekite

Facts:

The Amalekites were a nomadic people group who lived throughout the southern part of Canaan, from the Negev desert to the country of Arabia. This people group was descended from Amalek, the grandson of Esau.

- The Amalekites were bitter enemies of Israel from the time when Israel first came to live in Canaan.
- Sometimes the term "Amalek" is used figuratively to refer to all the Amalekites. (See: [synecdoche](#))
- In one battle against the Amalekites, when Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning. When he got tired and his hands came down, they started losing. So Aaron and Hur helped Moses keep his hands up until the Israelite army had defeated the Amalekites.
- Both King Saul and King David led military expeditions against the Amalekites.
- After one victory over the Amalekites, Saul disobeyed God by keeping some of the plunder and by not killing the Amalekite king as God had commanded him to do.

(Translation suggestions: [Translate Names](#))

(See also: Arabia, David, Esau, Negev, [Saul \(OT\)](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 4:43
- 2 Samuel 1:8
- Exodus 17:10
- Numbers 14:23-25

Word Data:

- Strong's: H6002, H6003

(Go back to: [Exodus 17:8](#); [17:9](#); [17:10](#); [17:11](#); [17:13](#); [17:16](#))

Amorite

Facts:

The Amorites were a powerful group of people who inhabited the land of Canaan and lived on both sides of the Jordan River.

- Their name means “high one,” which may refer to the mountainous regions where they lived or to the fact that they were known to be very tall.
- The book of Genesis reports that the Amorites were descended from Canaan, the grandson of Noah.
- The city of Ai was inhabited by Amorites.
- God refers to the “sin of the Amorites,” which included their worship of false gods and the sinful practices associated.
- Joshua led the Israelites in destroying the Amorites, as God had commanded them to do.

Bible References:

- Amos 2:9
- Ezekiel 16:3
- Genesis 10:16
- Genesis 15:14-16
- Joshua 9:10

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **15:7** Sometime later, the kings of another people group in Canaan, the **Amorites**, heard that the Gibeonites had made a peace treaty with the Israelites, so they combined their armies into one large army and attacked Gibeon.
- **15:8** In the early morning they surprised the **Amorite** armies and attacked them.
- **15:9** God fought for Israel that day. He caused the **Amorites** to be confused and he sent large hailstones that killed many of the **Amorites**.
- **15:10** God also caused the sun to stay in one place in the sky so that Israel would have enough time to completely defeat the **Amorites**.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0567

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:8](#); [3:17](#); [13:5](#); [23:23](#); [33:2](#); [34:11](#))

ancestor, father, fathered, forefather, grandfather

Definition:

The term “father” refers to a person’s male parent.

- The terms “father” and “forefather” are often used to refer to a male ancestor(s) of a certain person or people group. This could also be translated a “ancestor” or “ancestral father.”
- The expression “the father of” can figuratively refer to a person who is the leader a group of related people or the source of something. For example, in Genesis 4 “the father of all who live in tents” could mean, “the first clan leader of the first people who ever lived in tents.”
- The apostle Paul figuratively called himself the “father” of those he had helped to become Christians through sharing the gospel with them.

Translation Suggestions

- When talking about a father and his literal son, this term should be translated using the usual term to refer to a father in the language.
- “God the Father” should also be translated using the usual, common word for “father.”
- When referring to forefathers, this term could be translated as “ancestors” or “ancestral fathers.”
- When Paul refers to himself figuratively as a father to believers in Christ, this could be translated as “spiritual father” or “father in Christ.”
- Sometimes the word “father” can be translated as “clan leader,” depending on the context.
- The phrase “father of all lies” could be translated as “source of all lies” or “the one from whom all lies come.”

(See also: God the Father, [son](#), Son of God)

Bible References:

- Acts 7:2
- Acts 7:32
- Acts 7:45
- Acts 22:3
- Genesis 31:30
- Genesis 31:42
- Genesis 31:53
- Hebrews 7:4-6
- John 4:12
- Joshua 24:3-4
- Malachi 3:7
- Mark 10:7-9
- Matthew 1:7
- Matthew 3:9
- Matthew 10:21
- Matthew 18:14
- Romans 4:12

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0001, H0002, H0025, H0369, H0539, H1121, H1730, H1733, H2524, H3205, H3490, H4940, H5971, H7223, G05400, G10800, G37370, G39620, G39640, G39660, G39670, G39700, G39710, G39950, G42450, G42690, G46130

(Go back to: Exodus 2:16; 2:18; 3:6; 3:13; 3:15; 3:16; 4:5; 6:14; 6:25; 10:6; 12:3; 13:5; 13:11; 15:2; 18:4; 20:5; 20:12; 21:15; 21:17; 22:17; 34:7; 40:15)

angel, archangel

Definition:

An angel is a powerful spirit being whom God created. Angels exist to serve God by doing whatever he tells them to do. The term “archangel” refers to the angel who rules or leads all the other angels.

- The word “angel” literally means “messenger.”
- The term “archangel” literally means “chief messenger.” The only angel referred to in the Bible as an “archangel” is Michael.
- In the Bible, angels gave messages to people from God. These messages included instructions about what God wanted the people to do.
- Angels also told people about events that were going to happen in the future or events that had already happened.
- Angels have God’s authority as his representatives and sometimes in the Bible they spoke as if God himself was speaking.
- Other ways that angels serve God are by protecting and strengthening people.
- A special phrase, “angel of Yahweh,” has more than one possible meaning: (1) It may mean “angel who represents Yahweh” or “messenger who serves Yahweh.” (2) It may refer to Yahweh himself, who looked like an angel as he talked to a person. Either one of these meanings would explain the angel’s use of “I” as if Yahweh himself was talking.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate “angel” could include “messenger from God” or “God’s heavenly servant” or “God’s spirit messenger.”
- The term “archangel” could be translated as “chief angel” or “head ruling angel” or “leader of the angels.”
- Also consider how these terms are translated in a national language or another local language.
- The phrase “angel of Yahweh” should be translated using the words for “angel” and “Yahweh.” This will allow for different interpretations of that phrase. Possible translations could include “angel from Yahweh” or “angel sent by Yahweh” or “Yahweh, who looked like an angel.”

(See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: [chief](#), [head](#), [messenger](#), [Michael](#), [ruler](#), [servant](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Samuel 24:16
- Acts 10:3-6
- Acts 12:23
- Colossians 2:18-19
- Genesis 48:16
- Luke 2:13
- Mark 8:38
- Matthew 13:50
- Revelation 1:20
- Zechariah 1:9

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **2:12** God placed large, powerful **angels** at the entrance to the garden to keep anyone from eating the fruit of the tree of life.
- **22:3** The **angel** responded to Zechariah, "I was sent by God to bring you this good news."
- **23:6** Suddenly, a shining **angel** appeared to them (the shepherds), and they were terrified. The **angel** said, "Do not be afraid, because I have some good news for you."
- **23:7** Suddenly, the skies were filled with **angels** praising God.
- **25:8** Then **angels** came and took care of Jesus.
- **38:12** Jesus was very troubled and his sweat was like drops of blood. God sent an **angel** to strengthen him.
- **38:15** "I could ask the Father for an army of **angels** to defend me."

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0047, H0430, H4397, H4398, H8136, G00320, G07430, G24650

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:2](#); [23:20](#); [23:23](#); [32:34](#); [33:2](#))

anguish

Definition:

The term “anguish” refers to severe pain or distress.

- Anguish can be physical or emotional pain or distress.
- Often people who are in extreme anguish will show it in their face and behaviors.
- For example, a person in severe pain or anguish might grit his teeth or cry out.
- The term “anguish” could also be translated as “emotional distress” or “deep sorrow” or “severe pain.”

Bible References:

- Jeremiah 6:24
- Jeremiah 19:9
- Job 15:24
- Luke 16:24
- Psalms 116:3-4

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2342, H2470, H2479, H3708, H4164, H4689, H4691, H5100, H6695, H6862, H6869, H7267, H7581, G09280, G36000, G49280

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:7](#))

anoint, anointed, anointing

Definition:

The term “anoint” means to rub or pour oil on a person or object. Sometimes the oil was mixed with spices, giving it a sweet, perfumed smell. In biblical times, there were several reasons for anointing someone with oil.

- In the Old Testament, priests, kings, and prophets were anointed with oil to set them apart for special service to God. (This and the other uses are symbolic actions, see [Symbolic Action](#).)
- Objects such as altars or the tabernacle were also anointed with oil to show that they were to be used to worship and glorify God.
- In the New Testament, sick people were anointed with oil for their healing.
- The New Testament records two times that Jesus was anointed with perfumed oil by a woman, as an act of worship. One time Jesus commented that in doing this she was preparing him for his future burial.
- After Jesus died, his friends prepared his body for burial by anointing it with oils and spices.
- The titles “Messiah” (Hebrew) and “Christ” (Greek) mean “the Anointed (One).”
- Jesus the Messiah is the one who was chosen and anointed as a Prophet, High Priest, and King.
- In biblical times, a woman might anoint herself with perfume to make herself more sexually attractive.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term “anoint” could be translated as “pour oil on” or “put oil on” or “consecrate by pouring perfumed oil on.”
- To “be anointed” could be translated as “be consecrated with oil.” or “be appointed” or “be consecrated.”
- In some contexts the term “anoint” could be translated as “appoint.”
- A phrase like “the anointed priest,” could be translated as “the priest who was consecrated with oil” or “the priest who was set apart by the pouring on of oil.”

(See also: Christ, [consecrate](#), high priest, King of the Jews, [priest](#), [prophet](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 2:20
- 1 John 2:27
- 1 Samuel 16:2-3
- Acts 4:27-28
- Amos 6:5-6
- Exodus 29:5-7
- James 5:13-15

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0047, H0430, H1101, H1878, H3323, H4397, H4398, H4473, H4886, H4888, H4899, H5480, H8136, G00320, G02180, G07430, G14720, G20250, G34620, G55450, G55480

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:6](#); [29:7](#); [29:21](#); [29:29](#); [29:36](#); [30:25](#); [30:30](#); [30:31](#); [31:11](#); [35:8](#); [35:28](#); [39:38](#); [40:9](#); [40:15](#))

appoint, appointed

Definition:

The terms “appoint” and “appointed” refer to choosing someone to fulfill a specific task or role.

- To “be appointed” can also refer to being “chosen” to receive something, as in “appointed to eternal life.” That people were “appointed to eternal life” means they were chosen to receive eternal life.
- The phrase “appointed time” refers to God’s “chosen time” or “planned time” for something to happen.
- The word “appoint” may also mean to “command” or “assign” someone to do something.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, ways to translate “appoint” could include “choose” or “assign” or “formally choose” or “designate.”
- The term “appointed” could be translated as “assigned” or “planned” or “specifically chose.”
- The phrase “be appointed” could also be translated as “be chosen.”

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 8:11
- Acts 3:20
- Acts 6:2
- Acts 13:48
- Genesis 41:33-34
- Numbers 3:9-10

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0561, H0977, H2163, H2296, H2706, H2708, H2710, H3198, H3245, H3259, H3677, H3983, H4150, H4151, H4152, H4483, H4487, H4662, H5324, H5344, H5414, H5567, H5975, H6310, H6485, H6565, H6635, H6680, H6923, H6942, H6966, H7760, H7896, G03220, G06060, G12990, G13030, G19350, G25250, G27490, G42870, G42960, G43840, G49290, G50210, G50870

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:5](#); [9:16](#); [13:10](#); [18:21](#); [18:25](#); [21:8](#); [21:13](#); [23:15](#); [33:22](#); [34:18](#); [40:8](#))

ark

Definition:

The term “ark” literally refers to a rectangular wooden box that is made to hold or protect something. An ark can be large or small, depending on what it is being used for.

- In the English Bible, the word “ark” is first used to refer to the very large, rectangular, wooden boat that Noah built to escape the worldwide flood. The ark had a flat bottom, a roof, and walls.
- Ways to translate this term could include “very large boat” or “barge” or “cargo ship” or “large, box-shaped boat.”
- The Hebrew word that is used to refer to this huge boat is the same word used for the basket or box that held baby Moses when his mother put him in the Nile River to hide him. In that case it is usually translated as “basket.”
- In the phrase “ark of the covenant,” a different Hebrew word is used for “ark.” This could be translated as “box” or “chest” or “container.”
- When choosing a term to translate “ark,” it is important in each context to consider what size it is and what it is being used for.

(See also: [ark of the covenant](#), basket)

Bible References:

- 1 Peter 3:20
- Exodus 16:33-36
- Exodus 30:6
- Genesis 8:4-5
- Luke 17:27
- Matthew 24:37-39

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0727, H8392, G27870

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:3; 2:5](#))

ark of the covenant, ark of Yahweh, box, Box of the Testimony, Box of the Covenant of Yahweh

Definition:

These terms refer to a special wooden chest, overlaid with gold, that contained the two stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written. It also contained Aaron's staff and a jar of manna.

- The term "ark" here could be translated as "box" or "chest" or "container."
- The objects in this chest reminded the Israelites of God's covenant with them.
- The ark of the covenant was located in the "most holy place."
- God's presence was above the ark of the covenant in the most holy place of the tabernacle, where he spoke to Moses on behalf of the Israelites.
- During the time that the ark of the covenant was in the most holy place of the temple, the high priest was the only one who could approach the ark, once a year on the Day of Atonement.
- Many English versions translate the term "covenant decrees" literally as "testimony." This refers to the fact that the Ten Commandments were a testimony or witness to God's covenant with his people. It is also translated as "covenant law."

(See also: [ark](#), [covenant](#), [atonement](#), [holy place](#), [testimony](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 6:15
- Exodus 25:10-11
- Hebrews 9:5
- Judges 20:27
- Numbers 7:89
- Revelation 11:19

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0727, H1285, H3068

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:10](#); [25:14](#); [25:15](#); [25:16](#); [25:21](#); [25:22](#); [26:33](#); [26:34](#); [30:6](#); [30:26](#); [31:7](#); [35:12](#); [37:1](#); [37:5](#); [39:35](#); [40:3](#); [40:5](#); [40:20](#); [40:21](#))

ash, ashes

Facts:

The term “ash” (or “ashes”) refers to the grey powdery substance that is left behind after wood is burned.

- In ancient times, sitting in ashes was a sign of mourning or grieving. When grieving, it was the custom to wear rough, scratchy sackcloth and sit in ashes or put ashes on the head.
- Putting ashes on the head was also a sign of humiliation or embarrassment.
- An “ash heap” is a pile of ashes.
- Sometimes the word “dust” is used with the term “ashes” in the phrase, “dust and ashes.” This phrase can be translated as “dust and ashes” or simply as “ashes.”
- When translating “ashes,” use the word in the target language that refers to the burned-up remains after wood has burned.

(See also: [fire](#), sackcloth)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 20:10
- Jeremiah 6:26
- Psalms 102:9
- Psalms 113:7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0080, H0665, H1854, H6083, H6368, H7834, G28680, G47000, G50770, G55220

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:8; 9:10](#))

Asher

Facts:

Asher was Jacob's eighth son. He was Zilpah's second son. His descendants became one of the tribes of Israel.

- The tribe descended from him was known as the "tribe of Asher" or "Asher."
- His name sounds similar to a Hebrew word meaning "blessed, happy."
- The tribe of Asher settled in the northwest corner of Canaan, on the Mediterranean Sea. When used as the name of a region of land, the term "Asher" refers to the land given to the tribe of Asher.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, [Jacob](#), Zilpah)

Bible References:

- Genesis 30:13
- 1 Chronicles 2:1-2
- 1 Kings 4:16
- Ezekiel 48:1-3
- Luke 2:36-38

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0836

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:4](#))

Asherah, Asherah pole, Ashtoreth

Definition:

Asherah was the name of a goddess that was worshiped by Canaanite people groups during Old Testament times. "Ashtoreth" may be another name for "Asherah," or it could be the name of a different goddess that was very similar.

- The term "Asherah poles" refers to carved wooden images or carved trees that were made to represent this goddess.
- Asherah poles were often set up near altars of the false god Baal, who was thought of as Asherah's husband. Some people groups worshiped Baal as the sun god and Asherah or Ashtoreth as the moon goddess.
- God commanded the Israelites to destroy all the carved images of Asherah.
- Some Israelite leaders such as Gideon, King Asa, and King Josiah obeyed God and led the people in destroying these idols.
- But other Israelite leaders such as King Solomon, King Manasseh, and King Ahab did not get rid of the Asherah poles and influenced the people to worship these idols.

(See also: false god, Baal, Gideon, [image](#), Solomon)

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 18:4
- 2 Kings 21:3
- Isaiah 27:9
- Judges 3:7-8
- Micah 5:14

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0842, H6252, H6253

(Go back to: [Exodus 34:13](#))

assembly, assemble, congregation, meeting, gather, community

Definition:

The term "assembly" usually refers to a group of people who come together for some reason, often to discuss problems, give advice, or make decisions. An assembly can be a group that is organized in an official and somewhat permanent way, or it can be a group of people who come together temporarily for a specific purpose or occasion.

Old Testament

- In the Old Testament there was a special kind of assembly called a "sacred assembly" in which the people of Israel would gather to worship Yahweh.
- Sometimes the term "assembly" referred to the Israelites in general, as a group.

New Testament

- In the New Testament, an assembly of 70 Jewish leaders in major cities such as Jerusalem would meet to judge legal matters and to settle disputes between people. This assembly was known as the "Sanhedrin" or the "Council."

Translation Suggestions

- Depending on the context, "assembly" could also be translated as "special gathering" or "congregation" or "council" or "army" or "large group."
- When the term "assembly" refers generally to the Israelites as a whole, it could also be translated as "community" or "people of Israel."
- The phrase, "all the assembly" could be translated as "all the people" or "the whole group of Israelites" or "everyone." (See: [hyperbole](#))
- A large gathering of enemy soldiers was sometimes also referred to as an "assembly." This could be translated as "army."

(See also: council)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 8:14
- Acts 7:38
- Ezra 10:12-13
- Hebrews 12:22-24
- Leviticus 4:20-21
- Nehemiah 8:1-3

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0622, H1481, H2199, H3259, H4150, H4186, H4744, H5475, H5712, H6116, H6908, H6950, H6951, H6952, G15770, G38310, G48630, G48640, G48710, G49050

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:16](#); [4:29](#); [12:3](#); [12:6](#); [12:16](#); [12:19](#); [12:47](#); [16:1](#); [16:2](#); [16:3](#); [16:9](#); [16:10](#); [16:22](#); [17:1](#); [34:31](#); [35:1](#); [35:4](#); [38:25](#))

atonement lid

Definition:

The “atonement lid” was a slab of gold that was used to cover the top of the ark of the covenant. In many English translations, it is also referred to as an “atonement cover.”

- The atonement lid was about 115 centimeters in length and 70 centimeters in width.
- Above the atonement lid were two gold cherubim with their wings touching.
- Yahweh said that he would meet with the Israelites above the atonement lid, under the outstretched wings of the cherubim. Only the high priest was permitted to meet with Yahweh in this way, as the representative of the people.
- Sometimes this atonement lid has been referred to as a “mercy seat” because it communicates God’s mercy in coming down to redeem sinful human beings.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate this term could include “ark covering where God promises to redeem” or “place where God atones” or “lid of ark where God forgives and restores.”
- Can also mean “place of propitiation.”
- Compare this term with how you translated “atonement,” “propitiation,” and “redemption.”

(See also: [ark of the covenant](#), [atonement](#), [cherubim](#), [propitiation](#), [redeem](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 25:17
- Exodus 30:6
- Exodus 40:17-20
- Leviticus 16:1-2
- Numbers 7:89

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3727, G24350

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:17](#); [25:18](#); [25:19](#); [25:20](#); [25:21](#); [25:22](#); [26:34](#); [30:6](#); [31:7](#); [35:12](#); [37:6](#); [37:7](#); [37:8](#); [37:9](#); [39:35](#); [40:20](#))

atonement, atone, atoned

Definition:

The terms “atone” and “atonement” refer to how God provided a sacrifice to pay for people’s sins and to appease his wrath for sin.

- In Old Testament times, God allowed temporary atonement to be made for the sins of the Israelites by the offering of a blood sacrifice, which involved killing an animal.
- As recorded in the New Testament, Christ’s death on the cross is the only true and permanent atonement for sin.
- When Jesus died, he took the punishment that people deserve because of their sin. He paid the atonement price with his sacrificial death.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “atone” could be translated by a word or phrase that means “pay for” or “provide payment for” or “cause someone’s sins to be forgiven” or “make amends for a crime.”
- Ways to translate “atonement” could include “payment” or “sacrifice to pay for sin” or “providing the means of forgiveness.”
- Make sure the translation of this term does not refer to payment of money.

(See also: [atonement lid](#), [forgive](#), propitiation, reconcile, [redeem](#))

Bible References:

- Ezekiel 43:25-27
- Ezekiel 45:18-20
- Leviticus 4:20
- Numbers 5:8
- Numbers 28:22

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H3722, H3725, G26430

(Go back to: [Exodus 29:33](#); [29:36](#); [Notes](#); [30:10](#); [30:16](#); [32:30](#))

authority

Definition:

The term “authority” usually refers to a position of influence, responsibility, or rule over another person.

- Kings and other governing rulers have authority over the people they are ruling.
- The word “authorities” can refer to people, governments, or organizations that have authority over others.
- The word “authorities” can also refer to spirit beings who have power over people who have not submitted themselves to God’s authority.
- Masters have authority over their servants or slaves. Parents have authority over their children.
- Governments have the authority or right to make laws that govern their citizens.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “authority” can also be translated as “control” or “right” or “qualifications.”
- Sometimes “authority” is used with the meaning of “power.”
- When “authorities” is used to refer to people or organizations who rule people, it could also be translated as “leaders” or “rulers” or “powers.”
- The phrase “by his own authority” could also be translated as “with his own right to lead” or “based on his own qualifications.”
- The expression, “under authority” could be translated as “responsible to obey” or “having to obey others’ commands.”

(See also: dominion, [king](#), [ruler](#), [power](#))

Bible References:

- Colossians 2:10
- Esther 9:29
- Genesis 41:35
- Jonah 3:6-7
- Luke 12:5
- Luke 20:1-2
- Mark 1:22
- Matthew 8:9
- Matthew 28:19
- Titus 3:1

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H8633, G08310, G14130, G18490, G18500, G20030, G27150, G52470

(Go back to: [Exodus 21:8](#))

avenge, avenger, revenge, vengeance

Definition:

To “avenge” or “take revenge” or “execute vengeance” is to punish someone in order to pay him back for the harm he did. The act of avenging or taking revenge is “vengeance.”

- Usually “avenge” implies an intent to see justice done or to right a wrong,
- When referring to people, the expression “take revenge” or “get revenge” usually involves wanting to get back at the person who did the harm.
- When God “takes vengeance” or “executes vengeance,” he is acting in righteousness because he is punishing sin and rebellion.

Translation Suggestions:

- The expression to “avenge” could also be translated as to “right a wrong” or to “get justice for.”
- When referring to human beings, to “take revenge” could be translated as “pay back” or “hurt in order to punish” or “get back at.”
- Depending on the context, “vengeance” could be translated as “punishment” or “punishment of sin” or “payment for wrongs done.” If a word meaning “retaliation” is used, this would apply to human beings only.
- When God says, “take my vengeance,” this could be translated by “punish them for wrongs done against me” or “cause bad things to happen because they have sinned against me.”
- When referring to God’s vengeance, make sure it is clear that God is right in his punishment of sin.

(See also: [punish](#), [just](#), [righteous](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 24:12-13
- Ezekiel 25:15
- Isaiah 47:3-5
- Leviticus 19:17-18
- Psalms 18:47
- Romans 12:19

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1350, H3467, H5358, H5359, H5360, H8199, G15560, G15570, G15580, G37090

(Go back to: [Exodus 21:20](#); [21:21](#))

barley

Definition:

The term “barley” refers to a kind of grain that is used to make bread.

- The barley plant has a long stalk with a head at the top where the seeds or grains grow.
- Barley does well in warmer weather so it is often harvested in spring or summer.
- When barley is threshed, the edible seeds are separated from the worthless chaff.
- Barley grain is ground up into flour, which is then mixed with water or oil to make bread.
- If barley is not known, this could be translated as “grain called barley” or “barley grain.”

(See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: grain, thresh, [wheat](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 11:12-14
- Job 31:40
- Judges 7:14
- Numbers 5:15
- Revelation 6:6

Word Data:

- Strong's: H8184, G29150, G29160

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:31](#))

barren, dry

Definition:

To be “barren” means to not be fertile or fruitful.

- Soil or land that is barren is not able to produce any plants.
- A woman who is barren is one who is physically unable to conceive or bear a child.

Translation Suggestions:

- When “barren” is used to refer to land, it could be translated as “not fertile” or “unfruitful” or “without plants.”
- When it is referring to a barren woman, it could be translated as “childless” or “not able to bear children” or “unable to conceive a child.”

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 2:5
- Galatians 4:27
- Genesis 11:30
- Job 3:7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4420, H6115, H6135, H6723, H7921, G06920, G47230

(Go back to: [Exodus 23:26](#))

bear, bearer, carry

Facts:

The term “bear” literally means “carry” something. There are also many figurative uses of this term.

- When speaking of a woman who will bear a child, this means “give birth to” a child.
- To “bear a burden” means to “experience difficult things.” These difficult things could include physical or emotional suffering.
- A common expression in the Bible is “bear fruit,” which means “produce fruit” or “have fruit.”
- The expression “bear witness” means “testify” or “report what one has seen or experienced.”
- The statement that “a son will not bear the iniquity of his father” means that he “will not be held responsible for” or “will not be punished for” his father’s sins.
- In general, this term could be translated as “carry” or “be responsible for” or “produce” or “have” or “endure,” depending on the context.

(Translation suggestions: [Translate Names](#))

(See also: [burden](#), [Elisha](#), [endure](#), [fruit](#), [iniquity](#), [report](#), [sheep](#), [strength](#), [testimony](#), [testimony](#))

Bible References:

- Lamentations 3:27

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2232, H3201, H3205, H5375, H5445, H5449, H6030, H6509, H6779, G01420, G04300, G09410, G10800, G16270, G25920, G31400, G41600, G47220, G48280, G50410, G50880, G53420, G54090, G55760

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:20](#); [6:23](#); [6:25](#); [18:22](#))

beast

Facts:

In the Bible, the term “beast” is often just another way of saying “animal.”

- A wild beast is a type of animal that lives freely in the forest or fields and has not been trained by people.
- A domestic beast is an animal that lives with people and is kept for food or for performing work, such as plowing fields. Often the term “livestock” is used to refer to this kind of animal.
- The Old Testament book of Daniel and the New Testament book of Revelation describe visions which have beasts that represent evil powers and authorities that oppose God. (See: [Metaphor](#))
- Some of these beasts are described as having strange features, such as several heads and many horns. They often have power and authority, indicating that they may represent countries, nations, or other political powers.
- Ways to translate this could include “creature” or “created thing” or “animal” or “wild animal,” depending on the context.

(See also: [authority](#), Daniel, [livestock](#), [nation](#), [power](#), [reveal](#), Beelzebul)

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 15:32
- 1 Samuel 17:44
- 2 Chronicles 25:18
- Jeremiah 16:1-4
- Leviticus 7:21
- Psalms 49:12-13

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0338, H0929, H1165, H2123, H2416, H2423, H2874, H3753, H4806, H7409, G22260, G23410, G23420, G29340, G49680, G50740

(Go back to: [Exodus 8:17](#); [8:18](#); [9:9](#); [9:10](#); [9:19](#); [9:22](#); [9:25](#); [11:5](#); [11:7](#); [12:12](#); [12:29](#); [13:2](#); [13:12](#); [13:15](#); [19:13](#); [22:10](#); [22:19](#))

believe, believer, belief, unbeliever, unbelief

Definition:

The terms “believe” and “believe in” are closely related, but have slightly different meanings:

1. believe

- To believe something is to accept or trust that it is true.
- To believe someone is to acknowledge that what that person has said is true.

2. believe in

- To “believe in” someone means to “trust in” that person. It means to trust that the person is who he says he is, that he always speaks the truth, and that he will do what he has promised to do.
- When a person truly believes in something, he will act in such a way that shows that belief.
- The phrase “have faith in” usually has the same meaning as “believe in.”
- To “believe in Jesus” means to believe that he is the Son of God, that he is God himself who also became human and who died as a sacrifice to pay for our sins. It means to trust him as Savior and live in a way that honors him.

3. believer

In the Bible, the term “believer” refers to someone who believes in and relies on Jesus Christ as Savior.

- The term “believer” literally means “person who believes.”
- The term “Christian” eventually came to be the main title for believers because it indicates that they believe in Christ and obey his teachings.

4. unbelief

The term “unbelief” refers to not believing something or someone.

- In the Bible, “unbelief” refers to not believing in or not trusting in Jesus as one’s Savior.
- A person who does not believe in Jesus is called an “unbeliever.”

Translation Suggestions:

- To “believe” could be translated as to “know to be true” or “know to be right.”
- To “believe in” could be translated as “trust completely” or “trust and obey” or “completely rely on and follow.”
- Some translations may prefer to say “believer in Jesus” or “believer in Christ.”
- This term could also be translated by a word or phrase that means “person who trusts in Jesus” or “someone who knows Jesus and lives for him.”
- Other ways to translate “believer” could be “follower of Jesus” or “person who knows and obeys Jesus.”
- The term “believer” is a general term for any believer in Christ, while “disciple” and “apostle” were used more specifically for people who knew Jesus while he was alive. It is best to translate these terms in different ways, in order to keep them distinct.
- Other ways to translate “unbelief” could include “lack of faith” or “not believing.”

- The term “unbeliever” could be translated as “person who does not believe in Jesus” or “someone who does not trust in Jesus as Savior.”

(See also: [believe](#), apostle, Christian, disciple, [faith](#), [trust](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 15:6
- Genesis 45:26
- Job 9:16-18
- Habakkuk 1:5-7
- Mark 6:4-6
- Mark 1:14-15
- Luke 9:41
- John 1:12
- Acts 6:5
- Acts 9:42
- Acts 28:23-24
- Romans 3:3
- 1 Corinthians 6:1
- 1 Corinthians 9:5
- 2 Corinthians 6:15
- Hebrews 3:12
- 1 John 3:23

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **3:4** Noah warned the people about the coming flood and told them to turn to God, but they did not **believe** him.
- **4:8** Abram **believed** God's promise. God declared that Abram was righteous because he **believed** God's promise.
- **11:2** God provided a way to save the firstborn of anyone who **believed in** him.
- **11:6** But the Egyptians did not **believe** God or obey his commands.
- **37:5** Jesus replied, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever **believes in** me will live, even though he dies. Everyone who **believes in** me will never die. Do you **believe** this?”
- **43:1** After Jesus returned to heaven, the disciples stayed in Jerusalem as Jesus had commanded them to do. The **believers** there constantly gathered together to pray.
- **43:3** While the **believers** were all together, suddenly the house where they were was filled with a sound like a strong wind. Then something that looked like flames of fire appeared over the heads of all the **believers**.
- **43:13** Every day, more people became **believers**.
- **46:6** That day many people in Jerusalem started persecuting the followers of Jesus, so the **believers** fled to other places. But in spite of this, they preached about Jesus everywhere they went.
- **46:1** Saul was the young man who guarded the robes of the men who killed Stephen. He did not believe in Jesus, so he persecuted the **believers**.
- **46:9** Some **believers** who fled from the persecution in Jerusalem went far away to the city of Antioch and preached about Jesus.
- **46:9** It was at Antioch that **believers** in Jesus were first called “Christians.”
- **47:14** They also wrote many letters to encourage and teach the **believers** in the churches.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0539, H0540, G05430, G05440, G05690, G05700, G05710, G39820, G41000, G41020, G41030, G41350

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:1](#); [4:5](#); [4:8](#); [4:9](#); [4:31](#); [14:31](#))

Benjamin, Benjaminite

Facts:

Benjamin was Jacob's twelfth son. He was Rachel's second son. His descendants became one of the tribes of Israel.

- The tribe descended from him was known as the "tribe of Benjamin" or "Benjamin" or the "Benjaminites."
- In Hebrew, the name Benjamin means "son of my right hand."
- The tribe of Benjamin settled just northwest of the Dead Sea, north of Jerusalem.
- King Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin.
- The apostle Paul was from the tribe of Benjamin.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, [Jacob](#), Rachel)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 2:1-2
- 1 Kings 2:8
- Acts 13:21-22
- Genesis 35:18
- Genesis 42:4
- Genesis 42:35-36
- Philippians 3:4-5

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1144, G09580

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:3](#))

bind, bond, bound

Definition:

The term “bind” means to tie something or fasten it securely. Something that is tied or joined together is called a “bond.” The term “bound” is the past tense of this term.

- To be “bound” means to have something tied or wrapped around something else.
- In a figurative sense, a person can be “bound” to a vow, which means he is “required to fulfill” what he promised to do.
- The term “bonds” refers to anything that binds, confines, or imprisons someone. It usually refers to physical chains, fetters or ropes that keep a person from being free to move.
- In Bible times, bonds such as ropes or chains were used to attach prisoners to the wall or floor of a stone prison.
- The term “bind” can also be used to talk about wrapping cloth around a wound to help it heal.
- A dead person would be “bound” with cloth in preparation for burial.
- The term “bond” is used figuratively to refer to something, such as sin, that controls or enslaves someone.
- A bond can also be a close relationship between people in which they support each other emotionally, spiritually and physically. This applies to the bond of marriage.
- For example, a husband and wife are “bound” or tied to each other. It is a bond that God does not want broken.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “bind” could also be translated as “tie” or “tie up” or “wrap (around).”
- Figuratively, it could be translated as to “restrain” or to “prevent” or to “keep from (something).”
- A special use of “bind” in Matthew 16 and 18 means “forbid” or “not permit.”
- The term “bonds” could be translated as “chains” or “ropes” or “shackles.”
- Figuratively the term “bond” could be translated as “knot” or “connection” or “close relationship.”
- The phrase “bond of peace” means “being in harmony, which brings people in closer relationship to each other” or “the tying together that peace brings.”
- To “bind up” could be translated as “wrap around” or “put a bandage on.”
- To “bind” oneself with a vow could be translated as “promise to fulfill a vow” or “commit to fulfill a vow.”
- Depending on the context, the term “bound” could also be translated as “tied” or “tied up” or “chained” or “obligated (to fulfill)” or “required to do.”

(See also: [fulfill](#), [peace](#), [prison](#), [servant](#), [vow](#))

Bible References:

- Leviticus 8:7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0247, H0481, H0519, H0615, H0631, H0632, H0640, H1366, H1367, H1379, H2280, H2706, H3256, H3533, H3729, H4147, H4148, H4205, H4562, H5650, H5656, H5659, H6029, H6123, H6616, H6696, H6872, H6887, H7194, H7405, H7573, H7576, H8198, H8244, H8379, G02540, G03310, G03320, G11950, G11960, G11980, G11990, G12100, G13970, G13980, G14010, G14020, G26110, G26150, G37340, G37840, G38140, G40190, G40290, G43850, G48860, G48870, G52650

(Go back to: [Exodus 22:11](#))

blemish, unblemished, defect

Facts:

The term “blemish” refers to a physical defect or imperfection on an animal or person. It can also refer to spiritual imperfections and faults in people.

- For certain sacrifices, God instructed the Israelites to offer an animal with no blemishes or defects.
- This is a picture of how Jesus Christ was the perfect sacrifice, without any sin.
- Believers in Christ have been cleansed from their sin by his blood and are considered to be without blemish.
- Ways to translate this term could include “defect” or “imperfection” or “sin,” depending on the context.

(See also: [believe](#), [clean](#), [sacrifice](#), [sin](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Peter 1:19
- 2 Peter 2:13
- Deuteronomy 15:19-21
- Numbers 6:13-15
- Song of Songs 4:7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3971, H8400, H8549, G34700

(Go back to: [Exodus 29:1](#))

bless, blessed, blessing

Definition:

To “bless” someone or something means to cause good and beneficial things to happen to the person or thing that is being blessed.

- Blessing someone also means expressing a desire for positive and beneficial things to happen to that person.
- In Bible times, a father would often pronounce a formal blessing on his children.
- When people “bless” God or express a desire that God be blessed, this means they are praising him.
- The term “bless” is sometimes used for consecrating food before it is eaten, or for thanking and praising God for the food.

Translation Suggestions:

- To “bless” could also be translated as “provide abundantly for” or to “be very kind and favorable toward.”
- “God has brought great blessing to” could be translated as “God has given many good things to” or “God has provided abundantly for” or “God has caused many good things to happen to”.
- “He is blessed” could be translated as “he will greatly benefit” or “he will experience good things” or “God will cause him to flourish.”
- “Blessed is the person who” could be translated as “How good it is for the person who.”
- Expressions like “blessed be the Lord” could be translated as “May the Lord be praised” or “Praise the Lord” or “I praise the Lord.”
- In the context of blessing food, this could be translated as “thanked God for the food” or “praised God for giving them food” or “consecrated the food by praising God for it.”

(See also: [praise](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 10:16
- Acts 13:34
- Ephesians 1:3
- Genesis 14:20
- Isaiah 44:3
- James 1:25
- Luke 6:20
- Matthew 26:26
- Nehemiah 9:5
- Romans 4:9

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **1:7** God saw that it was good and he **blessed** them.
- **1:15** God made Adam and Eve in his own image. He **blessed** them and told them, “Have many children and grandchildren and fill the earth.”
- **1:16** So God rested from all he had been doing. He **blessed** the seventh day and made it holy, because on this day he rested from his work.
- **4:4** “I will make your name great. I will **bless** those who **bless** you and curse those who curse you. All families on earth will be **blessed** because of you.”
- **4:7** Melchizedek **blessed** Abram and said, “May God Most High who owns heaven and earth **bless** Abram.”

- **7:3** Isaac wanted to give his **blessing** to Esau.
- **8:5** Even in prison, Joseph remained faithful to God, and God **blessed** him.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0833, H0835, H1288, H1289, H1293, G17570, G21270, G21280, G21290, G31060, G31070, G31080, G60500

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:32](#); [18:10](#); [20:11](#); [20:24](#); [23:25](#); [32:29](#); [39:43](#))

blood

Definition:

The term “blood” refers to the red liquid that comes out of a person’s skin when there is an injury or wound. Blood brings life-giving nutrients to a person’s entire body. In the Bible, the term “blood” is often used figuratively to mean “life” and/or several other concepts.

- When people made sacrifices to God, they killed an animal and poured its blood on the altar. This symbolized the sacrifice of the animal’s life to pay for people’s sins.
- The expression “flesh and blood” refers to human beings.
- The expression “own flesh and blood” refers to people who are biologically related.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term should be translated with the term that is used for blood in the target language.
- The expression “flesh and blood” could be translated as “people” or “human beings.”
- Depending on the context, the expression “my own flesh and blood” could be translated as “my own family” or “my own relatives” or “my own people.”
- If there is an expression in the target language that is used with this meaning, that expression could be used to translate “flesh and blood.”

(See also: [bloodshed](#); [flesh](#); [life](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 1:7
- 1 Samuel 14:32
- Acts 2:20
- Acts 5:28
- Colossians 1:20
- Galatians 1:16
- Genesis 4:11
- Psalms 16:4
- Psalms 105:28-30

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **8:3** Before Joseph’s brothers returned home, they tore Joseph’s robe and dipped it in goat’s **blood**.
- **10:3** God turned the Nile River into **blood**, but Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites go.
- **11:5** All the houses of the Israelites had **blood** around the doors, so God passed over those houses and everyone inside was safe. They were saved because of the lamb’s **blood**.
- **13:9** The **blood** of the animal that was sacrificed covered the person’s sin and made that person clean in God’s sight.
- **38:5** Then Jesus took a cup and said, “Drink this. It is my **blood** of the New Covenant that is poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”
- **48:10** When anyone believes in Jesus, the **blood** of Jesus takes away that person’s sin, and God’s punishment passes over him.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1818, H5332, G01290, G01300, G01310

(Go back to: Exodus 4:9; 4:25; 4:26; 7:17; 7:19; 7:20; 7:21; 12:7; 12:13; 12:22; 12:23; 23:18; 24:6; 24:8; 29:12; 29:16; 29:20; 29:21; 30:10; 34:25)

bloodshed

Definition:

The term “bloodshed” refers to the death of human beings due to murder, war, or some other violent act.

- This term literally means “shedding of blood,” which refers to when blood comes out of a person’s body from an open wound.
- The term “bloodshed” is often used to refer to widespread killing of people.
- It is also used as a general reference to the sin of murder.

Translation Suggestions:

- “The bloodshed” could be translated as “the killing of people” or “the many people who were killed.”
- “Through bloodshed” could also be translated as “by killing people.”
- “Innocent bloodshed” could be translated as “killing innocent people.”
- “Bloodshed follows bloodshed” could be translated as “they keep killing people” or “the killing of people goes on and on” or “they have killed many people and continue to do that” or “people keep killing other people.”
- Another figurative use, “bloodshed will pursue you,” could be translated as “your people will continue to experience bloodshed” or “your people will keep being killed” or “your people will continue to be at war with other nations and people will keep dying.”

(See also: [blood](#); [slaughter](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 22:6-8
- Genesis 9:5-7
- Hebrews 9:21-22
- Isaiah 26:21
- Matthew 23:29-31

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1818

(Go back to: [Exodus 22:2](#); [22:3](#))

blot out, wipe out

Definition:

The terms “blot out” and “wipe out” are expressions that mean to completely remove or destroy something or someone.

- These expressions can be used in a positive sense, as when God “blots out” sins by forgiving them and choosing not to remember them.
- It is also often used in a negative sense, as when God “blots out” or “wipes out” a people group, destroying them because of their sin.
- The Bible talks about a person’s name being “blotted out” or “wiped out” of God’s Book of Life, which means that the person will not receive eternal life.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, these expressions could be translated as “get rid of” or “remove” or “completely destroy” or “completely remove.”
- When referring to blotting someone’s name out of the Book of Life, this could be translated as “removed from” or “erased.”

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 29:20
- Exodus 32:30-32
- Genesis 7:23
- Psalm 51:1

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H4229, H8045, G18130

(Go back to: [Exodus 17:14](#); [32:32](#); [32:33](#))

body

Definition:

The term “body” refers to the physical body of a person or animal. This term is also used figuratively to refer to an object or to a group consisting of individual members.

- Often the term “body” refers to a dead person or animal. Sometimes this is referred to as a “dead body” or a “corpse.”
- When Jesus said to the disciples at his last Passover meal, “This (bread) is my body,” he was referring to his physical body that would be “broken” (killed) to pay for their sins.
- In the Bible, Christians as a group are referred to as the “body of Christ.”
- Just as a physical body has many parts, the “body of Christ” has many individual members.
- Each individual believer has a special function in the body of Christ to help the whole group work together to serve God and bring him glory.
- Jesus is also referred to as the “head” (leader) of the “body” of his believers. Just as a person’s head tells his body what to do, so Jesus is the one who guides and directs Christians as members of his “body.”

Translation Suggestions:

- The best way to translate this term would be with the word that is most commonly used to refer to a physical body in the project language. Make sure that the word used is not an offensive term.
- When referring collectively to believers, for some languages it may be more natural and accurate to say “spiritual body of Christ.”
- When Jesus says, “This is my body,” it is best to translate this literally, with a note to explain it if needed.
- Some languages may have a separate word when referring to a dead body, such as “corpse” for a person or “carcass” for an animal. Make sure the word used to translate this makes sense in the context and is acceptable.

(See also: [head](#), [hand](#); [face](#); [loins](#); [righthand](#); [tongue](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 10:12
- 1 Corinthians 5:5
- Ephesians 4:4
- Judges 14:8
- Numbers 6:6-8
- Psalm 31:9
- Romans 12:5

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0990, H1320, H1460, H1465, H1472, H1480, H1655, H3409, H4191, H5038, H5085, H5315, H6106, H6297, H7607, G44300, G49540, G49830, G55590

(Go back to: [Exodus 30:32](#))

Book of Life

Definition:

The term "Book of Life" is used to refer to where God has written the names of all the people whom he has redeemed and given eternal life to.

- Revelation refers to this book as "the Lamb's Book of Life." This could be translated as "the book of life belonging to Jesus, the Lamb of God." The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross paid the penalty for people's sins so that they can have eternal life through faith in him.
- The word for "book" can also mean "scroll" or "letter" or "writing" or "legal document." It may be literal or figurative.

(See also: [everlasting](#), [lamb](#), [life](#), [sacrifice](#), scroll)

Bible References:

- Philippians 4:3
- Psalms 69:28-29
- Revelation 3:5-6
- Revelation 20:11-12

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2416, H5612, G09760, G22220

(Go back to: [Exodus 32:32](#); [32:33](#))

bow, bow down, kneel, bend, bend the knee

Definition:

To bow means to bend over to humbly express respect and honor toward someone. To “bow down” means to bend over or kneel down very low, often with face and hands toward the ground.

- Other expressions include “bow the knee” (meaning to kneel) and “bow the head” (meaning to bend the head forward in humble respect or in sorrow).
- Bowing down can also be a sign of distress or mourning. Someone who is “bowed down” has been brought to a low position of humility.
- Often a person will bow in the presence of someone who is of higher status or greater importance, such as kings and other rulers.
- Bowing down before God is an expression of worship to him.
- In the Bible, people bowed down to Jesus when they realized from his miracles and teaching that he had come from God.
- The Bible says that when Jesus comes back someday, everyone will bow the knee to worship him.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, this term could be translated with a word or phrase that means “bend forward” or “bend the head” or “kneel.”
- The term “bow down” could be translated as “kneel down” or “prostrate oneself.”
- Some languages will have more than one way of translating this term, depending on the context.

(See also: [humble](#), [worship](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 5:18
- Exodus 20:5
- Genesis 24:26
- Genesis 44:14
- Isaiah 44:19
- Luke 24:5
- Matthew 2:11
- Revelation 3:9

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0086, H3721, H3766, H5753, H5791, H6915, H7743, H7812, H7817, G11200, G25780, G28270, G40980

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:31](#); [11:8](#); [12:27](#); [18:7](#); [20:5](#); [23:24](#); [32:8](#); [33:10](#); [34:8](#); [34:14](#))

bread

Definition:

Bread is a food made from flour mixed with water and oil to form a dough. The dough is then shaped into a loaf and baked.

- When the term “loaf” occurs by itself, it means “loaf of bread.”
- Bread dough is usually made with something that makes it rise, such as yeast. However, bread can also be made without yeast so that it does not rise. This is called “unleavened bread” in the Bible. The ancient Israelites ate “unleavened bread” during the passover meal.
- Since bread was the main food for many people in biblical times, this term is also used in the Bible to refer to food in general. (See: [Synecdoche](#)) Many times the term “bread” can be translated more generally as “food.”
- The phrase “bread of the presence” refers to twelve loaves of bread that were placed on a golden table in the tabernacle or temple building as a sacrifice to God. These loaves represented the twelve tribes of Israel and were only for the priests to eat. This could be translated as “bread showing that God lived among them.”
- The term “bread from heaven” refers to the special white food called “manna” that God provided for the Israelites when they were wandering through the desert. Jesus also called himself the “bread that came down from heaven” and the “bread of life.”

(See also: [Passover](#), [tabernacle](#), temple, [unleavened bread](#), [yeast](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 2:46
- Acts 27:35
- Exodus 16:15
- Luke 9:13
- Mark 6:38
- Matthew 4:4
- Matthew 11:18

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2557, H3899, H4635, H4682, G01060, G07400, G42860

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:20](#); [8:3](#); [Notes](#); [16:3](#); [16:4](#); [16:8](#); [16:12](#); [16:15](#); [16:22](#); [16:29](#); [16:32](#); [18:12](#); [23:25](#); [25:30](#); [29:2](#); [29:23](#); [29:32](#); [29:34](#); [34:28](#); [35:13](#); [39:36](#); [40:23](#))

breastplate, breastpiece

Definition:

The term “breastplate” refers to a piece of armor covering the front of the chest to protect a soldier during battle. The term “breastpiece” refers to a special piece of clothing that the Israelite high priest wore over the front part of his chest.

- A “breastplate” used by a soldier could be made of wood, metal, or animal skin. It was made to prevent arrows, spears, or swords from piercing the chest of the soldier.
- The “breastpiece” worn by the Israelite high priest was made of cloth and had valuable gems attached to it. The priest wore this when he was performing his duties of service to God in the temple.
- Other ways to translate the term “breastplate” could include “metal protective chest covering” or “armor piece protecting the chest.”
- The term “breastpiece” could be translated with a word that means “priestly clothing covering the chest” or “priestly garment piece” or “front piece of priest’s clothing.”

(See also: armor, high priest, pierce, [priest](#), temple, [warrior](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:8
- Exodus 39:14-16
- Isaiah 59:17
- Revelation 9:7-9

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2833, H8302, G23820

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:7](#); [28:4](#); [28:15](#); [28:22](#); [28:23](#); [28:24](#); [28:26](#); [28:28](#); [28:29](#); [28:30](#); [29:5](#); [35:9](#); [35:27](#); [39:8](#); [39:9](#); [39:15](#); [39:16](#); [39:17](#); [39:19](#); [39:21](#))

bribe, bribery, payoffs

Definition:

To “bribe” means to give someone something of value, such as money, to influence that person to do something dishonest.

- The soldiers who guarded Jesus’ empty tomb were bribed with money to lie about what happened.
- Sometimes a government official will be bribed to overlook a crime or to vote a certain way.
- The Bible forbids giving or taking bribes.
- The term, “bribe” could be translated as “dishonest payment” or “payment for lying” or “price for breaking the rules.”
- To “bribe” could be translated with a word or phrase that means, to “pay to influence (someone)” or to “pay to have a dishonest favor done” or to “pay for a favor.”

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 8:1-3
- Ecclesiastes 7:7
- Isaiah 1:23
- Micah 3:9-11
- Proverbs 15:27-28

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H3724, H4979, H7809, H7810, H7936, H7966, H8021, H8641, G52600

(Go back to: [Exodus 23:8](#))

bridegroom

Definition:

In a marriage ceremony, the bridegroom is the **man** who will marry the bride (the **woman**).

- In the Jewish culture during Bible times, the ceremony was centered around the bridegroom coming to get his bride.
- In the Bible, Jesus is figuratively called the "Bridegroom" who will someday come for his "Bride," the Church.
- Jesus compared his disciples to the friends of the bridegroom who celebrate while the bridegroom is with them, but who will be sad when he is gone.

(See also: bride)

Bible References:

- Isaiah 62:5
- Joel 2:15-16
- John 3:30
- Luke 5:35
- Mark 2:19
- Mark 2:20
- Matthew 9:15

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2860, G35660

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:25](#); [4:26](#))

bronze

Definition:

The term “bronze” refers to a kind of metal that is made from melting together the metals, copper and tin. It has a dark brown color, slightly red.

- Bronze resists water corrosion and is a good conductor of heat.
- In ancient times, bronze was used for making tools, weapons, artwork, altars, cooking pots, and soldiers' armor, among other things.
- Many building materials for the tabernacle and temple were made of bronze.
- Idols of false gods were also often made of bronze metal.
- Bronze objects were made by first melting the bronze metal into a liquid and then pouring it into molds. This process was called “casting.”

(See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: armor, [tabernacle](#), temple)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 7:16
- 1 Samuel 17:37-38
- Daniel 2:44-45
- Exodus 25:3-7
- Revelation 1:15

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5153, H5154, H5174, H5178, G54700, G54740, G54750

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:3](#); [26:11](#); [26:37](#); [27:2](#); [27:3](#); [27:4](#); [27:6](#); [27:10](#); [27:11](#); [27:17](#); [27:18](#); [27:19](#); [30:18](#); [31:4](#); [35:5](#); [35:16](#); [35:24](#); [35:32](#); [36:18](#); [36:38](#); [38:2](#); [38:3](#); [38:4](#); [38:5](#); [38:6](#); [38:8](#); [38:10](#); [38:11](#); [38:17](#); [38:19](#); [38:20](#); [38:29](#); [38:30](#); [39:39](#))

brother

Definition:

The term “brother” refers to a male sibling who shares at least one biological parent.

- In the Old Testament, the term “brothers” is also used as a general reference to relatives or associates, such as members of the same tribe, clan, occupation, or people group. When used in this way, the term can refer to both men and women.
- In the New Testament, the apostles often use the term “brothers” to refer to fellow Christians, including both men and women.
- A few times in the New Testament, the apostles used the term “sister” when referring specifically to a fellow Christian who was a woman, or to emphasize that both men and women are being included. For example, James emphasizes that he is talking about all believers when he refers to “a brother or sister who is in need of food or clothing.”

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate this term with the literal word that is used in the target language to refer to a natural or biological brother, unless this would give wrong meaning.
- In the Old Testament especially, when “brothers” is used very generally to refer to members of the same family, clan, or people group, possible translations could include “relatives” or “clan members” or “fellow Israelites.”
- In the context of referring to a fellow believer in Christ, this term could be translated as “brother in Christ” or “spiritual brother.”
- If both males and females are being referred to and “brother” would give a wrong meaning, then a more general kinship term could be used that would include both males and females.
- Other ways to translate this term so that it refers to both male and female believers could be “fellow believers” or “Christian brothers and sisters.”
- Make sure to check the context to determine whether only men are being referred to, or whether both men and women are included.

(See also: [apostle](#), [God the Father](#), [sister](#), [spirit](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 7:26
- Genesis 29:10
- Leviticus 19:17
- Nehemiah 3:1
- Philippians 4:21
- Revelation 1:9

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0251, H0252, H0264, H1730, H2992, H2993, H2994, H7453, G00800, G00810, G23850, G24550, G25000, G46130, G53600, G55690

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:6](#); [2:11](#); [4:14](#); [4:18](#); [7:1](#); [7:2](#); [10:23](#); [16:15](#); [25:20](#); [28:1](#); [28:2](#); [28:4](#); [28:41](#); [32:27](#); [32:29](#); [37:9](#))

burden, load, heavy, hard work, hard labor, utterances

Definition:

A burden is a heavy load. It literally refers to a physical load such as a work animal would carry. The term "burden" also has several figurative meanings:

- A burden can refer to a difficult duty or important responsibility that a person has to do. He is said to be "bearing" or "carrying" a "heavy burden."
- A cruel leader may put difficult burdens on the people he is ruling, for example by forcing them to pay large amounts of taxes.
- A person who does not want to be a burden to someone does not want to cause that other person any trouble.
- The guilt of a person's sin is a burden to him.
- The "burden of the Lord" is a figurative way of referring to a "message from God" that a prophet must deliver to God's people.
- The term "burden" can be translated by "responsibility" or "duty" or "heavy load" or "message," depending on the context.

Bible References:

- 2 Thessalonians 3:6-9
- Galatians 6:1-2
- Galatians 6:3
- Genesis 49:15
- Matthew 11:30
- Matthew 23:4

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2960, H3053, H4614, H4853, H4864, H5445, H5447, H5448, H5449, H5450, H6006, G00040, G09160, G09220, G23470, G25990, G26550, G54130

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:11](#); [2:11](#); [5:4](#); [5:5](#); [5:9](#); [6:6](#); [6:7](#); [23:5](#))

burnt offering, offering by fire

Definition:

A “burnt offering” was a type of sacrifice to God that was burnt up by fire on an altar. It was offered to make atonement for the sins of the people. This was also called an “offering by fire.”

- Animals used for this offering were usually sheep or goats, but oxen and birds were also used.
- Except for the skin, the entire animal was burned up in this offering. The skin or hide was given to the priest.
- God commanded the Jewish people to offer burnt offerings two times every day.

(See also: [altar](#), [atonement](#), [ox](#), [priest](#), [sacrifice](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 40:5-7
- Genesis 8:20
- Genesis 22:1-3
- Leviticus 3:5
- Mark 12:33

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0801, H5930, H7133, H8548, G36460

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:25](#); [18:12](#); [20:24](#); [24:5](#); [29:18](#); [29:25](#); [29:42](#); [30:9](#); [30:28](#); [31:9](#); [32:6](#); [35:16](#); [38:1](#); [40:6](#); [40:10](#); [40:29](#))

call, call out

Definition:

The terms “call” and “call out” usually mean to speak loudly, but the term “call” can also mean to name or summon a person. There are also some other meanings.

- To “call out” to someone means to shout, to announce, or to proclaim. It can also mean to ask someone for help, especially God.
- Often in the Bible, “call” has a meaning of “summon” or “command to come” or “request to come.”
- God calls people to come to him and be his people. This is their “calling.”
- When God “calls” people, it means that God has appointed or chosen people to be his children, to be his servants and proclaimers of his message of salvation through Jesus.
- This term is also used in the context of naming someone. For example, “His name is called John,” means “He is named John” or “His name is John.”
- To be “called by the name of” means that someone is given the name of someone else. God says that he has called his people by his name.
- A different expression, “I have called you by name” means that God has specifically chosen that person.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “call” could be translated by a word that means “summon,” which includes the idea of being intentional or purposeful in calling.
- The expression “call out to you” could be translated as “ask you for help” or “pray to you urgently.”
- When the Bible says that God has “called” us to be his servants, this could be translated as “specially chose us” or “appointed us” to be his servants.
- “You must call his name” can also be translated as “you must name him.”
- “His name is called” could also be translated as “his name is” or “he is named.”
- To “call out” could be translated as “say loudly” or “shout” or “say with a loud voice.” Make sure the translation of this does not sound like the person is angry.
- The expression “your calling” could be translated as “your purpose” or “God’s purpose for you” or “God’s special work for you.”
- To “call on the name of the Lord” could be translated as “seek the Lord and depend on him” or “trust in the Lord and obey him.”
- To “call for” something could be translated by “demand” or “ask for” or “command.”
- The expression “you are called by my name” could be translated as “I have given you my name, showing that you belong to me.”
- When God says, “I have called you by name,” this could be translated as “I know you and have chosen you.”

(See also: [pray](#), [cry](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 18:24
- 1 Thessalonians 4:7
- 2 Timothy 1:9
- Ephesians 4:1
- Galatians 1:15
- Matthew 2:15
- Philippians 3:14

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0559, H2199, H4744, H6817, H7121, H7123, H7769, H7773, G01540, G03630, G14580, G15280, G19410, G19510, G20280, G20460, G25640, G28210, G28220, G28400, G29190, G30040, G31060, G33330, G33430, G36030, G36860, G36870, G43160, G43410, G43770, G47790, G48670, G54550, G55370, G55810

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:18](#); [2:7](#); [2:8](#); [2:10](#); [2:20](#); [2:22](#); [3:4](#); [8:8](#); [8:25](#); [9:27](#); [10:16](#); [10:24](#); [12:21](#); [12:31](#); [17:7](#); [17:15](#); [19:3](#); [19:7](#); [19:20](#); [24:16](#); [31:2](#); [33:7](#); [34:31](#); [35:30](#); [36:2](#))

camel

Definition:

A camel is a large, four legged animal with one or two humps on its back. (See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

- In Bible times, the camel was the largest animal found in Israel and the surrounding regions.
- The camel was used mainly for carrying people and burdens.
- Some people groups also used camels for food but not the Israelites because God said that camels were unclean and were not to be eaten.
- Camels were valuable because they could move swiftly in the sand and could live without food and water for several weeks at a time.

(See also: [burden](#), [clean](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 5:21
- 2 Chronicles 9:1-2
- Exodus 9:1-4
- Mark 10:25
- Matthew 3:4
- Matthew 19:23-24

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1581, G25740

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:3](#))

Canaan, Canaanite

Facts:

Canaan was the son of Ham, who was one of Noah's sons. The Canaanites were the descendants of Canaan.

- The term "Canaan" or the "land of Canaan" also referred to an area of land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. It extended south to the border of Egypt and north to the border of Syria.
- This land was inhabited by the Canaanites, as well as several other people groups.
- God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants, the Israelites.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: Ham, [Promised Land](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 13:19-20
- Exodus 3:7-8
- Genesis 9:18
- Genesis 10:19-20
- Genesis 13:7
- Genesis 47:2

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **4:5** He (Abram) took his wife, Sarai, together with all his servants and everything he owned and went to the land God showed him, the land of **Canaan**.
- **4:6** When Abram arrived in **Canaan** God said, "Look all around you. I will give to you and your descendants all the land that you can see as an inheritance."
- **4:9** "I give the land of **Canaan** to your descendants."
- **5:3** "I will give you and your descendants the land of **Canaan** as their possession and I will be their God forever."
- **7:8** After twenty years away from his home in **Canaan**, Jacob returned there with his family, his servants, and all his herds of animals.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3667, H3669, G54780

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:8](#); [3:17](#); [6:4](#); [6:15](#); [13:5](#); [13:11](#); [15:15](#); [16:35](#); [23:23](#); [23:28](#); [33:2](#); [34:11](#))

captive, captivate, captivity, catch

Definition:

The terms “captive” and “captivity” refer to people who have been captured and forced to live somewhere they do not want to live, such as in a foreign country.

- The Israelites from the kingdom of Judah were held captive in the kingdom of Babylonia for 70 years.
- Captives are often required to work for the people or nation that captured them.
- Daniel and Nehemiah were Israelite captives who worked for the Babylonian king.
- The expression to “take captive” is another way of talking about capturing someone.
- The expression, “carry you away captive” could also be translated as “force you to live as captives” or “take you away to another country as prisoners.”
- In a figurative sense, the apostle Paul tells Christians to “take captive” every thought and make it obedient to Christ.
- He also talks about how a person can be “taken captive” by sin, which means he is “controlled by” sin.

Translation Suggestions

- Depending on the context, to be “held captive” could also be translated by, “not allowed to be free” or “kept in prison” or “forced to live in a foreign country.”
- The expression, “led captive” or “taken captive” could be translated as “captured” or “imprisoned” or “forced to go to a foreign land.”
- The term “captives” could also be translated as “people who were captured” or “enslaved people.”
- Depending on the context, “captivity” could also be translated as “imprisonment” or “exile” or “forced stay in a foreign country.”

(See also: Babylon, exile, prison, [seize](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Corinthians 10:5
- Isaiah 20:4
- Jeremiah 43:3
- Luke 4:18

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1123, H1473, H1540, H1546, H1547, H7617, H7622, H7628, H7633, H7686, G01610, G01620, G01630, G01640, G22210

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:29](#))

cast out, driving out, throw out

Definition:

To “cast out” or “drive out” someone or something means to force that person or thing to go away.

- The term “cast” means the same thing as “throw.” To cast a net means to throw the net into the water.
- In a figurative sense, “cast out” or “cast away” someone can mean to reject that person and send him away.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, other ways to translate this could include, “force out” or “send away” or “get rid of.”
- To “cast out demons” could be translated as “cause the demons to leave” or “drive the evil spirits out” or “expel the demons” or “command the demon to come out.”
- To “cast out” someone from a synagog or church could be translated as “banish them” or “put them out.”

(See also: demon, demon-possessed, lots)

Bible References:

- Acts 7:17-19
- Mark 3:13-16
- Mark 9:29
- Matthew 7:21-23
- Matthew 9:32-34
- Matthew 12:24
- Matthew 17:19-21

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1272, H1644, H1920, H3423, H7971, H7993, G15440

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:17](#); [6:1](#); [10:11](#); [11:1](#); [12:39](#); [34:24](#))

census

Definition:

The term "census" refers to a formal counting of the number of people in a nation or empire.

- The Old Testament records different times when God ordered that the men of Israel be counted, such as when the Israelites first left Egypt and then again just before they entered Canaan.
- Often the purpose of a census was in order to know how many people should be paying taxes.
- For example, one time in Exodus the Israelite men were counted so that each one would pay a half shekel for taking care of the temple.
- When Jesus was a baby, the Roman government did a census to count all the people who lived throughout their empire, to require them to pay taxes.

Translation Suggestions

- Possible ways to translate this term could include, "name counting" or "list of names" or "enrollment."
- The phrase "take a census" could be translated as "register people's names" or "enroll people" or "write down people's names."

(See also: [nation](#), Rome)

Bible References:

- Acts 5:37
- Exodus 30:12
- Exodus 38:26
- Luke 2:3
- Numbers 4:1-4

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3789, H5674, H5921, H6485, H7218, G05820, G05830

(Go back to: [Exodus 30:12](#))

chariot, charioteers

Definition:

In ancient times, chariots were lightweight, two-wheeled carts that were pulled by horses.

- People would sit or stand in chariots, using them for war or travel.
- In war, an army that had chariots had a great advantage of speed and mobility over an army that did not have chariots.
- The ancient Egyptians and Romans were well-known for their use of horses and chariots.

(See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: [Egypt](#), [Rome](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 9:22
- 2 Chronicles 18:28-30
- Acts 8:29
- Acts 8:38
- Daniel 11:40-41
- Exodus 14:25
- Genesis 41:43

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **12:10** So they followed the Israelites onto the path through the sea, but God caused the Egyptians to panic and caused their **chariots** to get stuck.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2021, H4817, H4818, H7393, H7395, H7398, G07160, G44800

(Go back to: [Exodus 14:6](#); [14:7](#); [14:9](#); [14:17](#); [14:18](#); [14:23](#); [14:25](#); [14:26](#); [14:28](#); [15:4](#); [15:19](#))

cherub

Definition:

The term “cherub,” and its plural form “cherubim,” refer to a special type of heavenly being that God created. The Bible describes cherubim as having wings and flames.

- The cherubim display the glory and power of God and seem to be guardians of sacred things.
- After Adam and Eve sinned, God placed cherubim with flaming swords at the east side of the Garden of Eden so that people could no longer get to the tree of life.
- God commanded the Israelites to carve two cherubim facing each other, with their wings touching, over the atonement lid of the ark of the covenant.
- He also told them to weave pictures of the cherubim into the curtains of the tabernacle.
- In some passages, these creatures are also described as having four faces: of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle.
- Cherubim are sometimes thought of as being angels, but the Bible does not clearly state that.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “cherubim” could be translated as “creatures with wings” or “guardians with wings” or “winged spiritual guardians” or “holy, winged guardians.”
- A “cherub” should be translated as the singular of cherubim, as in, “creature with wings” or “winged spiritual guardian,” for example.
- Make sure that the translation of this term is different from the translation of “angel.”
- Also consider how this term is translated or written in a Bible translation in a local or national language. (See: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: [angel](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 13:6
- 1 Kings 6:23-26
- Exodus 25:15-18
- Ezekiel 9:3
- Genesis 3:22-24

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3742, G55020

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:18](#); [25:19](#); [25:20](#); [25:22](#); [26:1](#); [26:31](#); [36:8](#); [36:35](#); [37:7](#); [37:8](#); [37:9](#))

chief, leader

Definition:

The term "chief" refers to the most powerful or most important leader of a particular group.

- Examples of this include, "chief musician," "chief priest," and "chief tax collector." and "chief ruler."
- It can also be used for the head of a specific family, as in Genesis 36 where certain men are named as "chiefs" of their family clans. In this context, the term "chief" could also be translated as "leader" or "head father."
- When used to describe a noun, this term could be translated as "leading" or "ruling," as in "leading musician" or "ruling priest."

(See also: [head](#), chief priests, [priest](#), tax collector)

Bible References:

- Daniel 1:11-13
- Ezekiel 26:15-16
- Luke 19:2
- Psalm 4:1

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0047, H0441, H5057, H5387, H5632, H6496, H7218, H7225, H7227, H7229, H7262, H8269, H8334, G07490, G07500, G07540, G44100, G44130, G55060

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:15](#); [16:22](#))

children, child, offspring

Definition:

The term “child” (plural “children”) refers to the offspring of a man and woman. The term is often used more generally to refer to anyone who is young in age and is not yet a fully grown adult. The term “offspring” is a general reference to the biological descendants of people or animals.

- In the Bible, disciples or followers are sometimes called “children.”
- Often the term “children” is used to refer to a person’s descendants.
- Often in the Bible, “offspring” has the same meaning as “children” or “descendants.”
- The term “seed” is sometimes used figuratively to refer to offspring.
- The phrase “children of” can refer to being characterized by something. Some examples of this would be:
 - children of the light
 - children of obedience
 - children of the devil
- This term can also refer to the Church. For example, sometimes the New Testament refers to people who believe in Jesus as “children of God.”

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “children” could be translated as “descendants” when it is referring to a person’s great-grandchildren or great-great-grandchildren, etc.
- Depending on the context, “children of” could be translated as “people who have the characteristics of” or “people who behave like.”
- If possible, the phrase, “children of God” should be translated literally since an important biblical theme is that God is our heavenly Father. A possible translation alternate would be, “people who belong to God” or “God’s spiritual children.”
- When Jesus calls his disciples “children,” this could also be translated as “dear friends” or “my beloved disciples.”
- When Paul and John refer to believers in Jesus as “children,” this could also be translated as “dear fellow believers.”
- The phrase, “children of the promise” could be translated as “people who have received what God promised them.”

(See also: [descendant](#), [seed](#), [promise](#), [son](#), [spirit](#), [believe](#), beloved)

Bible References:

- 1 John 2:28
- 3 John 1:4
- Galatians 4:19
- Genesis 45:11
- Joshua 8:34-35
- Nehemiah 5:5
- Acts 17:29
- Exodus 13:11-13
- Genesis 24:7
- Isaiah 41:8-9
- Job 5:25
- Luke 3:7
- Matthew 12:34

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1069, H1121, H1123, H1129, H1323, H1397, H1580, H2029, H2030, H2056, H2138, H2145, H2233, H2945, H3173, H3205, H3206, H3208, H3211, H3243, H3490, H4392, H5209, H5271, H5288, H5290, H5759, H5764, H5768, H5953, H6185, H6363, H6529, H6631, H7908, H7909, H7921, G07300, G08150, G10250, G10640, G10810, G10850, G14710, G34390, G35150, G35160, G38080, G38120, G38130, G38160, G50400, G50410, G50420, G50430, G50440, G52060, G52070, G53880

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:3](#); [2:6](#); [2:7](#); [2:8](#); [2:9](#); [2:10](#); [10:10](#); [10:24](#); [12:37](#); [21:4](#); [21:22](#))

chosen, choose, chosen people, Chosen One, elect

Definition:

The term “the elect” literally means “chosen ones” or “chosen people” and refers to those whom God has appointed or selected to be his people. “Chosen One” or “Chosen One of God” is a title that refers to Jesus, who is the chosen Messiah.

- The term “choose” means to select something or someone or to decide something. It is often used to refer to God appointing people to belong to him and to serve him.
- To be “chosen” means to be “selected” or “appointed” to be or do something.
- God chose people to be holy, to be set apart by him for the purpose of bearing good spiritual fruit. That is why they are called “the chosen (ones)” or “the elect.”
- The term “chosen one” is sometimes used in the Bible to refer to certain people such as Moses and King David whom God had appointed as leaders over his people. It is also used to refer to the nation of Israel as God’s chosen people.
- The phrase “the elect” is an older term that literally means “the chosen ones” or “the chosen people.” This phrase in the original language is plural when referring to believers in Christ.
- In older English Bible versions, the term “elect” is used in both the Old and New Testaments to translate the word for “chosen one(s).” More modern versions use “elect” only in the New Testament, to refer to people who have been saved by God through faith in Jesus. Elsewhere in the Bible text, they translate this word more literally as “chosen ones.”

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate “elect” with a word or phrase that means “chosen ones” or “chosen people.” This could also be translated as “people whom God chose” or “the ones God appointed to be his people.”
- The phrase “who were chosen” could also be translated as “who were appointed” or “who were selected” or “whom God chose.”
- “I chose you” could be translated as “I appointed you” or “I selected you.”
- In reference to Jesus, “Chosen One” could also be translated as “God’s chosen One” or “God’s specially appointed Messiah” or “the One God appointed (to save people).”

(See also: [appoint](#), Christ)

Bible References:

- 2 John 1:1
- Colossians 3:12
- Ephesians 1:3-4
- Isaiah 65:22-23
- Luke 18:7
- Matthew 24:19-22
- Romans 8:33

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0970, H0972, H0977, H1262, H1305, H4005, H6901, G01380, G01400, G15860, G15880, G15890, G19510, G37240, G44000, G44010, G47580, G48990, G55000

(Go back to: [Exodus 4 General Notes](#))

circumcise, circumcised, circumcision, uncircumcised, uncircumcision

Definition:

The term “circumcise” means to cut off the foreskin of a man or male child. A circumcision ceremony may be performed in connection with this.

- God commanded Abraham to circumcise every male among his family and servants as a sign of God’s covenant with them.
- God also commanded Abraham’s descendants to continue to do this for every baby boy born into their households.
- The phrase, “circumcision of the heart” refers figuratively to the “cutting away” or removal of sin from a person.
- In a spiritual sense, “the circumcised” refers to people whom God has purified from sin through the blood of Jesus and who are his people.
- The term “uncircumcised” refers to those who have not been circumcised physically. It can also refer figuratively to those who have not been circumcised spiritually, who do not have a relationship with God.

The terms “uncircumcised” and “uncircumcision” refer to a male who has not been physically circumcised. These terms are also used figuratively.

- Egypt was a nation that also required circumcision. So when God talks about Egypt being defeated by the “uncircumcised,” he is referring to people whom the Egyptians despised for not being circumcised.
- The Bible refers to people who have an “uncircumcised heart” or who are “uncircumcised in heart.” This a figurative way of saying that these people are not God’s people, and are stubbornly disobedient to him.
- If a word for circumcision is used or known in the language, “uncircumcised” could be translated as “not circumcised.”
- The expression “the uncircumcision” could be translated as “people who are not circumcised” or “people who do not belong to God,” depending on the context.
- Other ways to translate figurative senses of this term could include “not God’s people” or “rebellious like those who don’t belong to God” or “people who have no sign of belonging to God.”
- The expression “uncircumcised in heart” could be translated as “stubbornly rebellious” or “refusing to believe.” However, if possible it is best to keep the expression or a similar one since spiritual circumcision is an important concept.

Translation Suggestions:

- If the culture of the target language performs circumcisions on males, the word used to refer to this should be used for this term.
- Other ways to translate this term would be, “cut around” or “cut in a circle” or “cut off the foreskin.”
- In cultures where circumcision is not known, it may be necessary to explain it in a footnote or glossary.
- Make sure the term used to translate this does not refer to females. It may be necessary to translate this with a word or phrase that includes the meaning of “male.”

(See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: [Abraham, covenant](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 17:11
- Genesis 17:14
- Exodus 12:48

- Leviticus 26:41
- Joshua 5:3
- Judges 15:18
- 2 Samuel 1:20
- Jeremiah 9:26
- Ezekiel 32:25
- Acts 10:44-45
- Acts 11:3
- Acts 15:1
- Acts 11:3
- Romans 2:27
- Galatians 5:3
- Ephesians 2:11
- Philippians 3:3
- Colossians 2:11
- Colossians 2:13

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **5:3** "You must **circumcise** every male in your family."
- **5:5** That day Abraham **circumcised** all the males in his household.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4135, H4139, H5243, H6188, H6189, H6190, G02030, G05640, G19860, G40590, G40610

(Go back to: [Exodus 4 General Notes](#); [4:26](#); [6:12](#); [6:30](#); [12:44](#); [12:48](#))

clan

Definition:

The term "clan" refers to a group of extended family members who come from a common ancestor.

- In the Old Testament, the Israelites were counted according to their clans, or family groups.
- Clans were normally named after their most well-known ancestor.
- Individual people were sometimes referred to by the name of their clan. An example of this is when Moses' father-in-law Jethro is sometimes called by his clan name, Reuel.
- The term "clan" might also be translated as "family group" or "extended family" or "relatives."

(See also: family, [Jethro](#), [tribe](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 6:33-35
- Genesis 10:2-5
- Genesis 36:15-16
- Genesis 36:29-30
- Genesis 36:40
- Joshua 15:20
- Numbers 3:38-39

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0001, H0441, H1004, H4940

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:14](#); [6:15](#); [6:17](#); [6:19](#); [6:24](#); [6:25](#))

clean, wash

Definition:

The term “clean” generally refers either to removing dirt or stains from someone/something or to not having any dirt or stain in the first place. The term “wash” refers specifically to action of removing dirt or stains from someone/something.

- “Cleanse” is the process of making something “clean.” It could also be translated as “wash” or “purify.”
- In the Old Testament, God told the Israelites which animals he had specified as ritually “clean” and which ones were “unclean.” Only the clean animals were permitted to be used for eating or for sacrifice. In this context, the term “clean” means that the animal was acceptable to God for use as a sacrifice.
- A person who had certain skin diseases would be unclean until the skin was healed enough to no longer be contagious. Instructions for cleansing the skin had to be obeyed in order for that person to be declared “clean” again.
- Sometimes “clean” is used figuratively to refer to moral purity, meaning to be “clean” from sin.

In the Bible, the term “unclean” is used figuratively to refer to things that God declared to be unfit for his people to touch, eat, or sacrifice.

- God gave the Israelites instructions about which animals were “clean” and which ones were “unclean.” The unclean animals were not permitted to be used for eating or for sacrifice.
- People with certain skin diseases were said to be “unclean” until they were healed.
- If the Israelites touched something “unclean,” they themselves would be considered unclean for a certain period of time.
- Obeying God’s commands about not touching or eating unclean things kept the Israelites set apart for God’s service.
- This physical and ritual uncleanness was also symbolic of moral uncleanness.
- In another figurative sense, an “unclean spirit” refers to an evil spirit.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could be translated with the common word for “clean” or “pure” (in the sense of being not dirty).
- Other ways to translate this could include, “ritually clean” or “acceptable to God.”
- “Cleanse” could be translated by “wash” or “purify.”
- Make sure that the words used for “clean” and “cleanse” can also be understood in a figurative sense.
- The term “unclean” could also be translated as “not clean” or “unfit in God’s eyes” or “physically unclean” or “defiled.”
- When referring to a demon as an unclean spirit, “unclean” could be translated as “evil” or “defiled.”
- The translation of this term should allow for spiritual uncleanness. It should be able to refer to anything that God declared as unfit for touching, eating, or sacrifice.

(See also: [defile](#), [demon](#), [holy](#), [sacrifice](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 7:2
- Genesis 7:8
- Deuteronomy 12:15
- Psalms 51:7
- Proverbs 20:30
- Ezekiel 24:13
- Matthew 23:27

- Luke 5:13
- Acts 8:7
- Acts 10:27-29
- Colossians 3:5
- 1 Thessalonians 4:7
- James 4:8

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1249, H1252, H1305, H2134, H2135, H2141, H2398, H2548, H2834, H2889, H2890, H2891, H2893, H2930, H2931, H2932, H3001, H3722, H5079, H5352, H5355, H5356, H6172, H6565, H6663, H6945, H7137, H8552, H8562, G01670, G01690, G25110, G25120, G25130, G28390, G28400, G33940, G36890

(Go back to: [Exodus 29:4](#); [29:17](#); [30:19](#); [30:20](#); [30:21](#); [40:12](#); [40:31](#))

clothe, clothed, clothes, clothing, unclothed, garments

Definition:

When used figuratively in the Bible, “clothed with” means to be endowed or equipped with something. To “clothe” oneself with something means to seek to have a certain character quality.

- In the same way that clothing is external to your body and is visible to all, when you are “clothed” with a certain character quality, others can readily see it. To “clothe yourself with kindness” means to let your actions be so characterized by kindness that it is easily seen by everyone.
- To be “clothed with power from on high” means to have power given to you.
- This term is also used to express negative experiences, such as “clothed with shame” or “clothed with terror.”

Translation Suggestions:

- If possible, it is best to keep the literal figure of speech, “clothe yourselves with.” Another way to translate this could be “put on” if this refers to putting on clothes.
- If that does not give the correct meaning, other ways to translate “clothed with” could be “showing” or “manifesting” or “filled with” or “having the quality of.”
- The term “clothe yourself with” could also be translated as “cover yourself with” or “behave in a way that shows.”

Bible References:

- Luke 24:49

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0899, H3680, H3736, H3830, H3847, H3848, H4055, H4374, H5497, H8008, H8071, H8516, G02940, G14630, G15620, G17370, G17420, G17460, G19020, G20660, G22240, G24390, G24400, G40160, G47490, G55090

(Go back to: [Exodus 28:2](#); [28:3](#); [28:41](#); [29:21](#); [29:29](#))

column, pillar

Definition:

The term “pillar” usually refers to a large vertical structure that is used to hold up a roof or other part of a building. Another word for “pillar” is “column.”

- In Bible times, pillars used as support in buildings were normally carved from a single piece of stone.
- When Samson in the Old Testament was captured by the Philistines, he destroyed their pagan temple by pushing the supporting pillars and causing the temple to collapse.
- The word “pillar” sometimes refers to a large stone or boulder that is set up as a memorial to mark a grave or to mark the place where an important event happened.
- It can also refer to an idol that was made to worship a false god. It is another name for a “carved image” and could be translated as “statue.”
- The term “pillar” is used to refer to something that is shaped like a pillar, such as the “pillar of fire” that led the Israelites at night through the desert or the “pillar of salt” that Lot’s wife became after she looked back at the city.
- As a structure supporting a building, the term “pillar” or “column” could be translated as “upright stone support beam” or “supporting stone structure.”
- Other uses of “pillar” could be translated as “statue” or “pile” or “mound” or “monument” or “tall mass,” depending on the context.

(See also: [foundation](#), false god, [image](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 18:4
- Exodus 13:21
- Exodus 33:9
- Genesis 31:45
- Proverbs 9:1-2

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0352, H0547, H2106, H2553, H3730, H4552, H4676, H4678, H4690, H5324, H5333, H5982, H8490, G47690

(Go back to: [Exodus 13:21](#); [13:22](#); [14:19](#); [14:24](#); [26:32](#); [26:37](#); [27:10](#); [27:11](#); [27:12](#); [27:14](#); [27:15](#); [27:16](#); [27:17](#); [33:9](#); [33:10](#); [35:11](#); [35:17](#); [36:36](#); [36:38](#); [38:10](#); [38:11](#); [38:12](#); [38:14](#); [38:15](#); [38:17](#); [38:19](#); [38:28](#); [39:33](#); [39:40](#); [40:18](#))

command, commandment

Definition:

The term "command" means to order someone to do something. The term "commandment" refers to the thing that a person is commanded to do.

- The term "commandment" sometimes refers to certain commands of God which are more formal and permanent, such as the "Ten Commandments."
- A command can be positive ("Honor your parents") or negative ("Do not steal").
- To "take command" means to "take control" or "take charge" of something or someone.

Translation Suggestions

- It is best to translate this term differently from the term, "law." Also compare with the definitions of "decree" and "statute."
- Some translators may prefer to translate "command" and "commandment" with the same word in their language.
- Others may prefer to use a special word for commandment that refers to lasting, formal commands that God has made.

(See decree, [statute](#), [law](#), Ten Commandments)

Bible References:

- Luke 1:6
- Matthew 1:24
- Matthew 22:38
- Matthew 28:20
- Numbers 1:17-19
- Romans 7:7-8

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0559, H0560, H0565, H1296, H1696, H1697, H1881, H2706, H2708, H2710, H2941, H2942, H2951, H3027, H3982, H3983, H4406, H4662, H4687, H4929, H4931, H4941, H5057, H5713, H5749, H6213, H6310, H6346, H6490, H6673, H6680, H7101, H7218, H7227, H7262, H7761, H7970, H8269, G12630, G12910, G12960, G12970, G12990, G16900, G17780, G17810, G17850, G20030, G20040, G20080, G20360, G27530, G30560, G37260, G38520, G38530, G43670, G44830, G44870, G55060

(Go back to: Exodus 1:22; 4:28; 5:6; 6:13; 7:2; 7:6; 7:10; 7:20; 12:28; 12:50; 15:26; 16:16; 16:28; 16:32; 16:34; 18:23; 19:7; 20:6; 23:15; 24:12; 25:22; 27:20; 29:35; 31:6; 31:11; 32:8; 34:4; 34:11; 34:18; 34:32; 34:34; 35:1; 35:4; 35:10; 35:29; 36:1; 36:5; 36:6; 38:22; 39:1; 39:5; 39:7; 39:21; 39:26; 39:29; 39:31; 39:32; 39:42; 39:43; 40:16; 40:19; 40:21; 40:23; 40:25; 40:27; 40:29; 40:32)

companion, fellow worker, friend

Facts:

The term "companion" refers to a person who goes with someone else or who is associated with someone else, such as in a friendship or marriage. The term "fellow worker" refers to someone who works with another person.

- Companions go through experiences together, share meals together, and support and encourage each other.
- Depending on the context, this term could also be translated with a word or phrase that means, "friend" or "fellow traveler" or "supporting-person who goes with" or "person who works with."

Bible References:

- Ezekiel 37:16
- Hebrews 1:9
- Proverbs 2:17
- Psalms 38:11-12

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0251, H0441, H2269, H2270, H2273, H2278, H3674, H3675, H4828, H7453, H7462, H7464, G28440, G33530, G48980, G49040

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:13](#); [32:27](#))

compassion, compassionate

Definition:

The term "compassion" refers to a feeling of concern for people, especially for those who are suffering. A "compassionate" person cares about other people and helps them.

- The word "compassion" refers to caring about people in need, as well as taking action to help them.
- The Bible says that God is compassionate, that is, he is full of love and mercy.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways of translating "compassion" could include, "deep caring" or "pity" or "helpful mercy."
- The term "compassionate" could also be translated as "caring and helpful" or "deeply loving and merciful."

Bible References:

- Daniel 1:8-10
- Hosea 13:14
- James 5:9-11
- Jonah 4:1-3
- Mark 1:41
- Romans 9:14-16

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2550, H7349, H7355, H7356, G16530, G33560, G36270, G46970, G48340, G48350

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:6](#); [33:19](#); [34:6](#))

conceive, conception

Definition:

The terms “conceive” and “conception” usually refer to becoming pregnant with a child. It can also be used for animals that become pregnant.

- The phrase “conceive a child” could be translated as “become pregnant” or some other term that is an acceptable way of referring to this.
- The related term “conception” could be translated as “beginning of a pregnancy” or “moment of becoming pregnant.”
- These terms can also refer to creating something or thinking of something, such as an idea, a plan, or a task. Ways to translate this could include, “think of” or “plan” or “create,” depending on the context.
- Sometimes this term can be used figuratively as in, “when sin is conceived” which means “when sin is first thought of” or “at the very start of a sin” or “when a sin first begins.”

(See also: [create](#), [womb](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 21:1-4
- Hosea 2:4-5
- Job 15:35
- Luke 1:24-25
- Luke 2:21

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2029, H2030, H2032, H2232, H2254, H2803, H3179, G10800, G17220, G28450, G48150

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:2](#))

consecrate, consecrated, consecration

Definition:

To consecrate means to dedicate something or someone to serve God. The person or object that is consecrated is considered holy and set apart for God.

- The meaning of this term is similar to “sanctify” or to “make holy,” but with the added meaning of formally setting apart someone for service to God.
- Things that were consecrated to God included animals to be sacrificed, the altar of burnt offering, and the tabernacle.
- People who were consecrated to God included the priests, the people of Israel, and the oldest male child.
- Sometimes the word “consecrate” has a meaning that is similar to “purify,” especially when it pertains to preparing people or things for God’s service so that they will be cleansed and acceptable to him.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate “consecrate” could include, “set apart for God’s service” or “purify for service to God.”
- Also consider how the terms “holy” and “sanctify” are translated.

(See also: [holy](#), [pure](#), sanctify)

Bible References:

- 1 Timothy 4:3-5
- 2 Chronicles 13:8-9
- Ezekiel 44:19

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2763, H3027, H4390, H4394, H5144, H5145, H6942, H6944, G14570, G50480

(Go back to: [Exodus 28:38](#); [Notes](#); [29:22](#); [29:26](#); [29:27](#); [29:31](#); [29:34](#))

consume, devour

Definition:

The term “consume” literally means to use up something. It has several figurative meanings.

- In the Bible, the word “consume” often refers to destroying things or people.
- A fire is said to consume things, which means it destroys them by burning them up.
- God is described as a “consuming fire,” which is a description of his anger against sin. His anger results in terrible punishment for sinners who do not repent.
- To consume food means to eat or drink something.
- The phrase, “consume the land” could be translated as “destroy the land.”

Translation Suggestions

- In the context of consuming the land or people, this term could be translated as “destroy.”
- When fire is referred to, “consume” could be translated as “burn up.”
- The burning bush that Moses saw “was not consumed” which could be translated as “did not get burned up” or “did not burn up.”
- When referring to eating, “consume” could be translated as “eat” or “devour.”
- If someone’s strength is “consumed,” it means his strength is “used up” or “gone.”
- The expression, “God is a consuming fire” could be translated as “God is like a fire that burns things up” or “God is angry against sin and will destroy sinners like a fire.”

(See also: [devour](#), [wrath](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 18:38-40
- Deuteronomy 7:16
- Jeremiah 3:23-25
- Job 7:9
- Numbers 11:1-3

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0398, H0402, H1086, H1104, H1197, H2628, H3615, H3617, H3857, H4529, H5595, H8046, H8552, G03550, G26180, G26540, G27190, G53150

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:2; 22:6](#))

contempt, contemptible, not worth listening to

Facts:

The term "contempt" refers to a deep disrespect and dishonor that is shown toward something or someone. Something that is greatly dishonorable is called "contemptible."

- A person or behavior that shows open disrespect for God is also called "contemptible" and could be translated as "greatly disrespectful" or "completely dishonorable" or "deserving scorn."
- To "hold in contempt" means to regard someone as having less value or to judge someone as less worthy than oneself.
- The following expressions have a similar meaning: "have contempt for" or "show contempt for" or "be in contempt of" or "treat with contempt." These all mean to "strongly disrespect" or "strongly dishonor" something or someone by what is said and done.
- When King David sinned by committing adultery and murder, God said that David had "shown contempt for" God. It means he had greatly disrespected and dishonored God by doing that.

(See also: dishonor)

Bible References:

- Daniel 12:1-2
- Proverbs 15:5-6
- Psalms 31:18

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0936, H0937, H0959, H0963, H1860, H7043, H7589, H5006, G18480

(Go back to: [Exodus 21:17](#); [22:28](#))

corrupt witness, false report, false testimony, false witness

Definition:

The terms “false witness” and “corrupt witness” refer to a person who says untrue things about a person or an event, usually in a formal setting such as a court.

- A “false testimony” or “false report” is the actual lie that is told.
- To “bear false witness” means to lie or give a false report about something.
- The Bible gives several accounts in which false witnesses were hired to lie about someone in order to have that person punished or killed.

Translation Suggestions:

- To “bear false witness” or “give a false testimony” could be translated as “testify falsely” or “give a false report about someone” or “speak falsely against someone” or “lie.”
- When “false witness” refers to a person, it could be translated as “person who lies” or “one who testifies falsely” or “someone who says things that are not true.”

(See also: [testimony](#), [true](#))

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 19:19
- Exodus 20:16
- Matthew 15:18-20
- Matthew 19:18-19
- Proverbs 14:5-6
- Psalms 27:11-12

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5707, H6030, H7650, H8267, G19650, G31440, G55710, G55750, G55760, G55770

(Go back to: [Exodus 20:16](#))

corrupt, corrupted, corruption, incorruptibility, depraved

Definition:

The terms “corrupt” and “corruption” refer to a state of affairs in which people have become ruined, immoral, or dishonest.

- The term “corrupt” literally means to be “bent” or “broken” morally.
- A person who is corrupt has turned away from truth and is doing things that are dishonest or immoral.
- To corrupt someone means to influence that person to do dishonest and immoral things.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term to “corrupt” could be translated as to “influence to do evil” or to “cause to be immoral.”
- A corrupt person could be described as a person “who has become immoral” or “who practices evil.”
- This term could also be translated as “bad” or “immoral” or “evil.”
- The term “corruption” could be translated as “the practice of evil” or “evil” or “immorality.”

(See also: [evil](#))

Bible References:

- Ezekiel 20:42-44
- Galatians 6:6-8
- Genesis 6:12
- Matthew 12:33-35
- Psalm 14:1

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2610, H3891, H4889, H7843, H7844, G08610, G13110, G27040, G53510, G53560

(Go back to: [Exodus 32:7](#))

court, courtyard

Definition:

The terms "courtyard" and "court" refer to an enclosed area that is open to the sky and surrounded by walls. The term "court" also refers to a place where judges decide legal and criminal matters.

- The tabernacle was surrounded by one courtyard which was enclosed by walls made of thick, cloth curtains.
- The temple complex had three inner courtyards: one for the priests, one for Jewish men, and one for Jewish women.
- These inner courtyards were surrounded by a low stone wall that separated them from an outer courtyard where Gentiles were permitted to worship.
- The courtyard of a house was an open area in the middle of the house.
- The phrase "king's court" can refer to his palace or to a place in his palace where he makes judgments.
- The expression, "courts of Yahweh" is a figurative way of referring to Yahweh's dwelling place or to the place where people go to worship Yahweh.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "courtyard" could be translated as "enclosed space" or "walled-in land" or "temple grounds" or "temple enclosure."
- Sometimes the term "temple" may need to be translated as "temple courtyards" or "temple complex" so that it is clear that the courtyards are being referred to, not the temple building.
- The expression, "courts of Yahweh" could be translated as "place where Yahweh lives" or "place where Yahweh is worshiped."
- The term used for a king's court could also be used to refer to Yahweh's court.

(See also: Gentile, judge, [king](#), [tabernacle](#), temple)

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 20:4-5
- Exodus 27:9
- Jeremiah 19:14-15
- Luke 22:55
- Matthew 26:69-70
- Numbers 3:26
- Psalms 65:4

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1004, H1508, H2691, H5835, H7339, H8651, G08330, G42590

(Go back to: [Exodus 8:13](#); [27:9](#); [27:12](#); [27:13](#); [27:16](#); [27:17](#); [27:18](#); [27:19](#); [35:17](#); [35:18](#); [38:9](#); [38:15](#); [38:16](#); [38:17](#); [38:18](#); [38:20](#); [38:31](#); [39:40](#); [40:8](#); [40:33](#))

covenant

Definition:

In the Bible, the term “covenant” refers to a formal, binding agreement between two parties that one or both parties must fulfill.

- This agreement can be between individuals, between groups of people, or between God and people.
- When people make a covenant with each other, they promise that they will do something, and they must do it.
- Examples of human covenants include marriage covenants, business agreements, and treaties between countries.
- Throughout the Bible, God made several different covenants with his people.
- In some of the covenants, God promised to fulfill his part without conditions. For example, when God established his covenant with mankind promising to never destroy the earth again with a worldwide flood, this promise had no conditions for people to fulfill.
- In other covenants, God promised to fulfill his part only if the people obeyed him and fulfilled their part of the covenant.

The term “new covenant” refers to the commitment or agreement God made with his people through the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus.

- God’s “new covenant” was explained in the part of the Bible called the “New Testament.”
- This new covenant is in contrast to the “old” or “former” covenant that God had made with the Israelites in Old Testament times.
- The new covenant is better than the old one because it is based on the sacrifice of Jesus, which completely atoned for people’s sins forever. The sacrifices made under the old covenant did not do this.
- God writes the new covenant on the hearts those who become believers in Jesus. This causes them to want to obey God and to begin to live holy lives.
- The new covenant will be completely fulfilled in the end times when God establishes his reign on earth. Everything will once again be very good, as it was when God first created the world.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, ways to translate this term could include, “binding agreement” or “formal commitment” or “pledge” or “contract.”
- Some languages may have different words for covenant depending on whether one party or both parties have made a promise they must keep. If the covenant is one-sided, it could be translated as “promise” or “pledge.”
- Make sure the translation of this term does not sound like people proposed the covenant. In all cases of covenants between God and people, it was God who initiated the covenant.
- The term “new covenant” could be translated as “new formal agreement” or “new pact” or “new contract.”
- The word “new” in these expressions has the meaning of “fresh” or “new kind of” or “another.”

(See also: [covenant](#), [promise](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 9:12
- Genesis 17:7
- Genesis 31:44
- Exodus 34:10-11
- Joshua 24:24-26

- 2 Samuel 23:5
- 2 Kings 18:11-12
- Mark 14:24
- Luke 1:73
- Luke 22:20
- Acts 7:8
- 1 Corinthians 11:25-26
- 2 Corinthians 3:6
- Galatians 3:17-18
- Hebrews 12:24

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **4:9** Then God made a **covenant** with Abram. A **covenant** is an agreement between two parties.
- **5:4** "I will make Ishmael a great nation, too, but my **covenant** will be with Isaac."
- **6:4** After a long time, Abraham died and all of the promises that God had made to him in the **covenant** were passed on to Isaac.
- **7:10** "The **covenant** promises God had promised to Abraham and then to Isaac now passed on to Jacob."
- **13:2** God said to Moses and the people of Israel, "If you will obey my voice and keep my **covenant**, you will be my prized possession, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation."
- **13:4** Then God gave them the **covenant** and said, "I am Yahweh, your God, who saved you from slavery in Egypt. Do not worship other gods."
- **15:13** Then Joshua reminded the people of their obligation to obey the **covenant** that God had made with the Israelites at Sinai.
- **21:5** Through the prophet Jeremiah, God promised that he would make a **New Covenant**, but not like the covenant God made with Israel at Sinai. In the **New Covenant**, God would write his law on the people's hearts, the people would know God personally, they would be his people, and God would forgive their sins. The Messiah would start the **New Covenant**.
- **21:14** Through the Messiah's death and resurrection, God would accomplish his plan to save sinners and start the **New Covenant**.
- **38:5** Then Jesus took a cup and said, "Drink this. It is my blood of the **New Covenant** that is poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Do this to remember me every time you drink it."
- **48:11** But God has now made a **New Covenant** that is available to everyone. Because of this **New Covenant**, anyone from any people group can become part of God's people by believing in Jesus.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1285, H2319, H3772, G08020, G12420, G49340

(Go back to: [Exodus 1 General Notes](#); [2:24](#); [Notes](#); [6:4](#); [6:5](#); [Notes](#); [16:34](#); [19:5](#); [Notes](#); [23:32](#); [Notes](#); [24:7](#); [24:8](#); [31:16](#); [34:10](#); [34:12](#); [34:15](#); [34:27](#); [34:28](#))

covenant faithfulness, covenant loyalty, covenant love

Definition:

In biblical times, the term translated as “covenant faithfulness” was used to describe the kind of faithfulness, loyalty, kindness, and love that was both expected and demonstrated between people who were closely related to one another, either by marriage or by blood. This same term is used often in the Bible to describe the way God relates to his people, especially his commitment to fulfill the promises that he made to them.

- The way this term is translated can depend on how each of the individual terms “covenant” and “faithfulness” are translated.
- Other ways to translate this term might include: “faithful love;” “loyal, committed love;” or “loving dependability.”

(See also: [covenant](#), [faithful](#), [grace](#), [Israel](#), [people of God](#), [promise](#))

Bible References:

- Ezra 3:11
- Numbers 14:18

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2617

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:13](#); [Notes](#); [20:6](#); [34:6](#); [34:7](#))

cow, bull, calf, cattle, heifer, ox

Definition:

The terms “cow,” “bull,” “heifer,” “ox,” and “cattle” all refer to a kind of large, four-legged bovine animal that eats grass.

- The female of this kind of animal is called a “cow,” the male is a “bull,” and their offspring is a “calf.”
- In the Bible, cattle were among the “clean” animals that the people could eat and use for sacrifice. They were primarily raised for their meat and milk.

A “heifer” is an adult female cow that has not yet given birth to a calf.

An “ox” is a type of cattle that is specifically trained to do agricultural work. The plural of this term is “oxen.” Usually oxen are male and have been castrated.

- Throughout the Bible, oxen were depicted as animals tied together by a yoke to pull a cart or a plow.
- Having oxen work together under a yoke was such a common occurrence in the Bible that the phrase to “be under a yoke” became a metaphor for hard work and labor.
- A bull is also a male type of cattle, but it has not been castrated and has not been trained as a work animal.

(See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: yoke)

Bible References:

- Genesis 15:9-11
- Exodus 24:5-6
- Numbers 19:1-2
- Deuteronomy 21:3-4
- 1 Samuel 1:24-25
- 1 Samuel 15:3
- 1 Samuel 16:2-3
- 1 Kings 1:9
- 2 Chronicles 11:15
- 2 Chronicles 15:10-11
- Matthew 22:4
- Luke 13:15
- Luke 14:5
- Hebrews 9:13

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0047, H0441, H0504, H0929, H1165, H1241, H4399, H4735, H4806, H5695, H5697, H6499, H6510, H6629, H7214, H7716, H7794, H7921, H8377, H8450, G10160, G11510, G23530, G29340, G34470, G34480, G41650, G50220

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:3](#); [12:32](#); [20:17](#); [20:24](#); [21:28](#); [21:29](#); [21:32](#); [21:33](#); [21:35](#); [21:36](#); [22:1](#); [22:4](#); [22:9](#); [22:10](#); [22:30](#); [23:4](#); [23:12](#); [24:5](#); [29:1](#); [29:3](#); [29:10](#); [29:11](#); [29:12](#); [29:14](#); [29:36](#); [32:4](#); [32:8](#); [32:19](#); [32:20](#); [32:24](#); [32:35](#); [34:19](#))

create, created, creation, creator

Definition:

The term "create" means to make something or to cause something to be. Whatever is created is called a "creation." God is called the "Creator" because he caused everything in the entire universe to come into existence.

- When this term is used to refer to God creating the world, it means he made it out of nothing.
- When human beings "create" something, it means they made it out of things that already existed.
- Sometimes "create" is used in a figurative way to describe something abstract, such as creating peace, or creating a pure heart in someone.
- The term "creation" can refer to the very beginning of the world when God first created everything. It can also be used to refer generally to everything that God created. Sometimes the word "creation" refers more specifically to just the people in the world.

Translation Suggestions:

- Some languages may have to directly say that God created the world "out of nothing" to make sure this meaning is clear.
- The phrase, "since the creation of the world" means "since the time when God created the world."
- A similar phrase, "at the beginning of creation" could be translated as "when God created the world at the beginning of time," or "when the world was first created."
- To preach the good news to "all creation" means to preach the good news to "all people everywhere on earth."
- The phrase "Let all creation rejoice" means "Let everything that God created rejoice."
- Depending on the context, "create" could be translated as "make" or "cause to be" or "make out of nothing."
- The term "the Creator" could be translated as "the One who created everything" or "God, who made the whole world."
- Phrases like "your Creator" could be translated as "God, who created you."

(See also: [God](#), good news, world)

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 11:9-10
- 1 Peter 4:17-19
- Colossians 1:15
- Galatians 6:15
- Genesis 1:1
- Genesis 14:19-20

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3335, H4639, H6213, H6385, H7069, G20410, G26020, G26750, G29360, G29370, G29390, G41600, G54800

(Go back to: [Exodus 34:10](#))

cry, cry out, outcry

Definition:

The terms “cry” or “cry out” usually mean to say something loudly or urgently. Someone can “cry out” in pain, distress, anger, or fear, often with the intent of asking for help.

- The phrase “cry out” can also mean to shout or to call out with the intent of asking for help.
- It can also mean to pray.
- This term could also be translated as “exclaim loudly” or “urgently ask for help,” depending on the context.
- An expression such as, “I cry out to you” could be translated as “I call to you for help” or “I urgently ask you for help.”

(See also: [call](#), [plead](#), [pray](#))

Bible References:

- Job 27:9
- Mark 5:5-6
- Mark 6:48-50
- Psalm 22:1-2

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1058, H2199, H2201, H6030, H6463, H6670, H6682, H6817, H6818, H6873, H6963, H7121, H7123, H7321, H7440, H7442, H7723, H7737, H7768, H7771, H7775, H8663, G03100, G03490, G08630, G09940, G09950, G19160, G20190, G27990, G28050, G28960, G29050, G29060, G29290, G43770, G54550

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:6](#); [2:23](#); [3:7](#); [3:9](#); [5:8](#); [5:15](#); [8:12](#); [11:6](#); [14:10](#); [14:15](#); [15:25](#); [17:4](#); [22:23](#); [22:27](#))

cure, cured, heal, healed, healing, healer, health, healthy, unhealthy

Definition:

The terms “heal” and “cure” both mean to cause a sick, wounded, or disabled person to be healthy again.

- A person who is “healed” or “cured” has been “made well” or “made healthy.”
- Healing can happen naturally since God gave our bodies the ability to recover from many kinds of wounds and diseases. This kind of healing usually happens slowly.
- However, certain conditions, such as being blind or paralyzed, and certain serious diseases, such as leprosy, however do not heal on their own. When people are healed of these things, it is a miracle that usually happens suddenly.
- For example, Jesus healed many people who were blind or lame or diseased, and they became well right away.
- The apostles also healed people miraculously, such as when Peter caused a crippled man to immediately be able to walk.

(See also: [miracle](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 5:16
- Acts 8:6
- Luke 5:13
- Luke 6:19
- Luke 8:43
- Matthew 4:23-25
- Matthew 9:35
- Matthew 13:15

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **19:14** One of the miracles happened to Naaman, an enemy commander, who had a horrible skin disease. He had heard of Elisha so he went and asked Elisha to **heal** him.
- **21:10** He (Isaiah) also predicted that the Messiah would **heal** sick people and those who could not hear, see, speak, or walk.
- **26:6** Jesus continued saying, “And during the time of the prophet Elisha, there were many people in Israel with skin diseases. But Elisha did not **heal** any of them. He only **healed** the skin disease of Naaman, a commander of Israel’s enemies.”
- **26:8** They brought many people who were sick or handicapped, including those who could not see, walk, hear, or speak, and Jesus **healed** them.
- **32:14** She had heard that Jesus had **healed** many sick people and thought, “I’m sure that if I can just touch Jesus’ clothes, then I will be **healed**, too!”
- **44:3** Immediately, God **healed** the lame man, and he began to walk and jump around, and to praise God.
- **44:8** Peter answered them, “This man stands before you **healed** by the power of Jesus the Messiah.”
- **49:2** Jesus did many miracles that prove he is God. He walked on water, calmed storms, **healed** many sick people, drove out demons, raised the dead to life, and turned five loaves of bread and two small fish into enough food for over 5,000 people.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0724, H1369, H1455, H2280, H2421, H2896, H3545, H4832, H4974, H7495, H7499, H7500, H7725, H7965, H8549, H8585, H8644, H0622, G12950, G17430, G23220, G23230, G23860, G23900, G23920, G25110, G36470, G49820, G51980, G51990

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:26](#); [21:19](#))

curse, cursed, cursing

Definition:

The term "curse" means to cause negative things to happen to the person or thing that is being cursed.

- A curse can be a statement that harm will happen to someone or something.
- To curse someone can also be an expression of desire that bad things will happen to them.
- It can also refer to the punishment or other negative things that someone causes to happen to someone.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could be translated as "cause bad things to happen to" or "declare that something bad will happen to" or "swear to cause evil things to happen to."
- In the context of God sending curses on his disobedient people, it could be translated as "punish by allowing bad things to happen."
- The term "cursed" when used to describe people could be translated as "(this person) will experience much trouble."
- The phrase "cursed be" could be translated as "May (this person) experience great difficulties."
- The phrase, "Cursed is the ground" could be translated as "The soil will not be very fertile."
- However, if the target language has the phrase "cursed be" and it has the same meaning, then it is good to keep the same phrase.

(See also: [bless](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 14:24-26
- 2 Peter 2:12-14
- Galatians 3:10
- Galatians 3:14
- Genesis 3:14
- Genesis 3:17
- James 3:10
- Numbers 22:6
- Psalms 109:28

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **2:9** God said to the snake, "You are **cursed!**"
- **2:11** "Now the ground is **cursed**, and you will need to work hard to grow food."
- **4:4** "I will bless those who bless you and **curse** those who **curse** you."
- **39:7** Then Peter vowed, saying, "May God **curse** me if I know this man!"
- **50:16** Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin into this world, God **cursed** it and decided to destroy it.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0422, H0423, H0779, H1288, H2763, H2764, H3994, H5344, H6895, H7043, H7045, H7621, H8381, G03310, G03320, G06850, G19440, G25510, G26520, G26530, G26710, G26720, G60350

(Go back to: [Exodus 22:28](#))

curtain

Definition:

In the Bible, the term “curtain” refers to a very thick, heavy piece of material used in the making of the tabernacle and the temple.

- The tabernacle was built using four layers of curtains for the top and sides. These curtain coverings were made of cloth or animal skins.
- Cloth curtains were also used to form a wall surrounding the tabernacle courtyard. These curtains were made out of “linen” which was a kind of cloth made out of the flax plant.
- In both the tabernacle and temple building, a thick cloth curtain hung between the holy place and the most holy place. It was this curtain that was miraculously torn into two parts when Jesus died.

Translation Suggestions:

- Since modern-day curtains are very different from the curtains used in the Bible, it may be more clear to use a different word or to add words that describe the curtains.
- Depending on the context, ways to translate this term could include, “curtain covering” or “covering” or “piece of thick cloth” or “animal skin covering” or “hanging piece of cloth.”

(See also: [holy place](#), [tabernacle](#), temple)

Bible References:

- Hebrews 10:20
- Leviticus 4:17
- Luke 23:45
- Matthew 27:51
- Numbers 4:5

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1852, H3407, H4539, H6532, H7050, G26650

(Go back to: [Exodus 26:1](#); [26:2](#); [26:3](#); [26:4](#); [26:5](#); [26:6](#); [26:7](#); [26:8](#); [26:9](#); [26:10](#); [26:12](#); [26:13](#); [26:31](#); [26:33](#); [26:35](#); [26:36](#); [26:37](#); [27:9](#); [27:11](#); [27:12](#); [27:14](#); [27:15](#); [27:16](#); [27:21](#); [30:6](#); [35:12](#); [35:15](#); [35:17](#); [36:8](#); [36:9](#); [36:10](#); [36:11](#); [36:12](#); [36:13](#); [36:14](#); [36:15](#); [36:16](#); [36:17](#); [36:35](#); [36:37](#); [38:9](#); [38:12](#); [38:14](#); [38:15](#); [38:16](#); [38:18](#); [38:27](#); [39:34](#); [39:38](#); [39:40](#); [40:3](#); [40:5](#); [40:8](#); [40:22](#); [40:26](#); [40:28](#); [40:33](#))

cut off, cut down

Definition:

The expression “be cut off” is an expression that means to be excluded, banished or isolated from the main group. It can also refer to being killed as an act of divine judgment for sin.

- In the Old Testament, disobeying God’s commands resulted in being cut off, or separated, from God’s people and from his presence.
- God also said he would “cut off” or destroy the non-Israelite nations, because they did not worship or obey him and were enemies of Israel.
- The expression “cut off” is also used to refer to God causing a river to stop flowing.

Translation Suggestions:

- The expression “be cut off” could be translated as “be banished” or “be sent away” or “be separated from” or “be killed” or “be destroyed.”
- Depending on the context, to “cut off” could be translated as to “destroy” or to “send away” or to “separate from” or to “destroy.”
- In the context of flowing waters being cut off, this could be translated as “were stopped” or “were caused to stop flowing” or “were divided.”
- The literal meaning of cutting something with a knife should be distinguished from the figurative uses of this term.

Bible References:

- Genesis 17:14
- Judges 21:6
- Proverbs 23:18

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1214, H1219, H1438, H1494, H1504, H1629, H1820, H2686, H3582, H3772, H5243, H5352, H6789, H7088, H7096, H7112, H7113, G06090, G08510, G15810

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:25](#); [8:9](#); [12:15](#); [12:19](#); [30:33](#); [30:38](#); [31:14](#); [34:13](#))

Dan

Facts:

Dan was Jacob's fifth son. He was Bilhah's first son. His descendants became one of the tribes of Israel.

- His name sounds similar to the Hebrew word for "judge."
- The tribe of Dan settled in the northern part of Canaan. When used as the name of a region of land, the term "Dan" refers to the land given to the tribe of Dan.
- "Dan" was also the name an Israelite city located about 60 miles north of Jerusalem. In the Old Testament times, the city of Dan served as a landmark for the northern boundary of the country of Israel, opposite the city of Beersheba as a landmark for the southern boundary.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, [Jacob](#), Bilhah)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 12:35
- 1 Kings 4:25
- Exodus 1:1-5
- Genesis 14:14
- Genesis 30:6

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1835, H1839, H2051

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:4](#); [31:6](#); [35:34](#); [38:23](#))

darkness

Definition:

The term "darkness" literally means an absence of light. There are also several figurative meanings of this term:

- As a metaphor, "darkness" means "impurity" or "evil" or "spiritual blindness."
- It also refers to anything related to sin and moral corruption.
- The expression "dominion of darkness" refers to all that is evil and ruled by Satan.
- The term "darkness" can also be used as a metaphor for death. (See: [Metaphor](#))
- People who do not know God are said to be "living in darkness," which means they do not understand or practice righteousness.
- God is light (righteousness) and the darkness (evil) cannot overcome that light.
- The place of punishment for those who reject God is sometimes referred to as "outer darkness."

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate this term literally, with a word in the project language that refers to the absence of light. This could also be a term that refers to the darkness of a room with no light or to the time of day when there is no light.
- For the figurative uses, it is also important to keep the image of darkness in contrast to light, as a way to describe evil and deception in contrast to goodness and truth.
- Depending on the context, other ways to translate this could be, "darkness of night" (as opposed to "light of day") or "not seeing anything, like at night" or "evil, like a dark place".

(See also: [corrupt](#), [dominion](#), [kingdom](#), [light](#), [redeem](#), [righteous](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 1:6
- 1 John 2:8
- 1 Thessalonians 5:5
- 2 Samuel 22:12
- Colossians 1:13
- Isaiah 5:30
- Jeremiah 13:16
- Joshua 24:7
- Matthew 8:12

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0652, H0653, H2816, H2821, H2822, H2825, H3990, H3991, H4285, H5890, H6205, G22170, G46520, G46530, G46550, G46560

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:21](#); [10:22](#); [14:20](#); [20:21](#))

day

Definition:

The term "day" generally refers to the time it takes for the alternating periods of light and darkness in the sky to complete one cycle (that is, 24 hours). However, in the Bible the same term is often used to refer to a shorter period of time (such as the time between sunrise and sunset) or a longer period of time that is often not specified.

- "Day" is sometimes used in contrast to "night." In these cases, the term refers to the period of time when the sky is light.
- The term may also refer to a specific point in time, such as "today."
- Sometimes the term "day" is used figuratively to refer to a longer period of time, such as the "day of Yahweh" or "last days." Some languages will use a different expression to translate these figurative uses or will translate "day" non-figuratively.

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate this term literally as "day" or "daytime" using the word in your language that refers to the part of the day when there is light.
- Other translations of "day" could include "daytime," "time," "season," "occasion" or "event," depending on the context.

(See also: [time](#), judgment day, last day)

Bible References:

- Acts 20:6
- Daniel 10:4
- Ezra 6:15
- Ezra 6:19
- Matthew 9:15

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3117, H3118, H6242, G22500

(Go back to: Exodus 2:11; 2:13; 2:23; 3:18; 5:3; 5:6; 5:13; 5:14; 5:19; 6:28; 7:25; 8:22; 8:27; 9:18; 10:6; 10:13; 10:22; 10:23; 10:28; 12:6; 12:14; 12:15; 12:16; 12:17; 12:18; 12:19; 12:41; 12:51; 13:3; 13:4; 13:6; 13:7; 13:8; 13:10; 13:21; 13:22; 14:13; 14:30; 15:22; 16:1; 16:4; 16:5; 16:22; 16:25; 16:26; 16:27; 16:29; 16:30; 19:1; 19:10; 19:11; 19:15; 19:16; 20:8; 20:9; 20:10; 20:11; 20:12; 21:21; 22:30; 23:12; 23:15; 23:26; 24:16; 24:18; 29:30; 29:35; 29:36; 29:37; 29:38; 31:15; 31:17; 32:28; 32:29; 32:34; 34:11; 34:18; 34:21; 34:28; 35:2; 35:3; 40:2)

deceive, lie, deception, illusions

Definition:

The term "deceive" means to cause someone to believe something that is not true, often by telling a "lie." The act of deceiving someone is called "lying," "deceit," or "deception."

- Someone who causes others to believe something false is a "deceiver." For example, Satan is called a "deceiver." The evil spirits that he controls are also deceivers.
- To "lie" is to say something that is not true.
- A person, action, or message that is not truthful can be described as "deceptive."
- The terms "deceit" and "deception" have the same meaning, but there are some small differences in how they are used.
- The descriptive terms "deceitful" and "deceptive" have the same meaning and are used in the same contexts.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate "deceive" could include "lie to" or "cause to have a false belief" or "cause someone to think something that is not true."
- The term "deceived" could also be translated as "caused to think something false" or "lied to" or "tricked" or "fooled" or "misled."
- "Deceiver" could be translated as "liar" or "one who misleads" or "someone who deceives."
- Depending on the context, the terms "deception" or "deceit" could be translated with a word or phrase that means "falsehood" or "lying" or "trickery" or "dishonesty."
- The terms "deceptive" or "deceitful" could be translated as "untruthful" or "misleading" or "lying" to describe a person who speaks or acts in a way that causes other people to believe things that are not true.

(See also: [true](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 1:8
- 1 Timothy 2:14
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4
- Genesis 3:12-13
- Genesis 31:26-28
- Leviticus 19:11-12
- Matthew 27:64
- Micah 6:11

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0898, H2048, H3577, H3584, H3868, H4123, H4820, H4860, H5230, H5377, H5558, H6121, H6231, H6601, H7411, H7423, H7683, H7686, H7952, H8267, H8496, H8582, H8591, H8649, G05380, G05390, G13860, G13870, G13880, G18180, G38840, G41050, G41060, G41080, G54220, G54230

(Go back to: [Exodus 5:9; 23:7](#))

declare, proclaim, announce

Definition:

The terms “declare” and “declaration” refer to making a formal or public statement, often to emphasize something. Other terms with similar meaning include “proclaim,” “proclamation,” “announce,” and “announcement.”

- A “declaration” not only emphasizes the importance of what is being proclaimed, but it also calls attention to the one making the declaration.
- For example, in the Old Testament, a message from God is often preceded by “the declaration of Yahweh” or “this is what Yahweh declares.” This expression emphasizes that it is Yahweh himself who is saying this. The fact that the message comes from Yahweh shows how important that message is.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, “declare” could also be translated as “proclaim” or “publicly state” or “strongly say” or “emphatically state.”
- The term “declaration” could also be translated as “statement” or “proclamation.”
- The phrase “this is Yahweh’s declaration” could be translated as “this is what Yahweh declares” or “this is what Yahweh says.”

(See also: [preach](#), decree)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 16:24
- 1 Corinthians 15:31-32
- 1 Samuel 24:17-18
- Amos 2:16
- Ezekiel 5:11-12
- Matthew 7:21-23

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0262, H0559, H0816, H0874, H1696, H3045, H4853, H5002, H5042, H5046, H5608, H6567, H7121, H7561, H7878, H8085, G03120, G05180, G06690, G12290, G13440, G15550, G17180, G18340, G20970, G25110, G26050, G26070, G31400, G36700, G37240, G38220, G38700, G39550, G42960

(Go back to: [Exodus 32:5](#); [33:19](#); [34:5](#); [34:6](#))

defile, defiled, desecrate

Definition:

The terms “defile” and “be defiled” refer to becoming polluted or dirty. Something can be defiled in a physical, moral, or ritual sense.

- God warned the Israelites to not defile themselves by eating or touching things that he had declared as “unclean” and “unholy.”
- Certain things such as dead bodies and contagious diseases were declared by God to be unclean and would defile a person if they touched them.
- God commanded the Israelites to avoid sexual sins. These would defile them and make them unacceptable to God.
- There were also certain kinds of bodily processes that defiled a person temporarily until he could become ritually pure again.
- In the New Testament, Jesus taught that sinful thoughts and actions are what truly defile a person.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “defile” can also be translated as “cause to be unclean” or “cause to be unrighteous” or “cause to be ritually unacceptable.”
- To “be defiled” could be translated as “become unclean” or “be caused to be morally unacceptable (to God)” or “become ritually unacceptable.”

(See also: [profane](#), [clean](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 23:8
- Exodus 20:24-26
- Genesis 34:27
- Genesis 49:4
- Isaiah 43:27-28
- Leviticus 11:43-45
- Mark 7:14-16
- Matthew 15:10

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1351, H1352, H1602, H2490, H2491, H2610, H2930, H2931, G28390, G28400, G33920, G34350

(Go back to: [Exodus 20:25](#))

deliver, hand over, turn over, release, rescue

Definition:

To “deliver” someone means to rescue that person. The term “deliverer” refers to someone who rescues or frees people from slavery, oppression, or other dangers. The term “deliverance” refers to what happens when someone rescues or frees people from slavery, oppression, or other dangers.

- In the Old Testament, God appointed deliverers to protect the Israelites by leading them in battle against other people groups who came to attack them.
- These deliverers were also called “judges” and the Old Testament book of Judges records the time in history when these judges were governing Israel.
- God is also called a “deliverer.” Throughout the history of Israel, he delivered or rescued his people from their enemies.
- The term “deliver over to” or “deliver up to” has a very different meaning of handing or turning someone over to an enemy, such as when Judas delivered Jesus over to the Jewish leaders.

Translation Suggestions:

- In the context of helping people escape from their enemies, the term “deliver” can be translated as “rescue” or “liberate” or “save.”
- When it means to deliver someone over to the enemy, “deliver over” can be translated as “betray to” or “hand over” or “give over.”
- The word “deliverer” can also be translated as “rescuer” or “liberator.”
- When the term “deliverer” refers to the judges who led Israel, it could also be translated as “governor” or “judge” or “leader.”

(See also: [judge](#), [save](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Corinthians 1:10
- Acts 7:35
- Galatians 1:4
- Judges 10:12

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **16:3** Then God provided a **deliverer** who rescued them from their enemies and brought peace to the land.
- **16:16** They (Israel) finally asked God for help again, and God sent them another **deliverer**.
- **16:17** Over many years, God sent many **deliverers** who saved the Israelites from their enemies.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1350, H2020, H2502, H3205, H3444, H3467, H4042, H4422, H4672, H5337, H5414, H5462, H6299, H6403, H6413, H6475, H6561, H7725, H7804, H8199, G03250, G05250, G06290, G10800, G13250, G15600, G16590, G18070, G19290, G26730, G30860, G38600, G45060, G49910, G50880, G54830

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:19](#); [3:8](#); [5:23](#); [6:6](#); [12:27](#); [18:4](#); [18:8](#); [18:9](#); [18:10](#))

descend, descendant

Definition:

A “descendant” is someone who is a direct blood relative of someone else further back in history.

- For example, Abraham was a descendant of Noah.
- A person’s descendants are his children, grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and so on. Jacob’s descendants were the twelve tribes of Israel.
- The phrase “descended from” is another way of saying “a descendant of” as in “Abraham was descended from Noah.” This could also be translated as “from the family line of.”

(See also: [Abraham](#), [ancestor](#), [Jacob](#), Noah, twelve tribes of Israel)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 9:4-5
- Acts 13:23
- Deuteronomy 2:20-22
- Genesis 10:1
- Genesis 28:12-13

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **2:9** “The woman’s **descendant** will crush your head, and you will wound his heel.”
- **4:9** “I give the land of Canaan to your **descendants**.”
- **5:10** “Your **descendants** will be more than the stars in the sky.”
- **17:7** “Someone from your family will always rule as king over Israel, and the Messiah will be one of your **descendants!**”
- **18:13** The kings of Judah were **descendants** of David.
- **21:4** God promised King David that the Messiah would be one of David’s own **descendants**.
- **48:13** God promised David that the Messiah would be one of his **descendants**. Jesus, the Messiah, was that special **descendant** of David.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0319, H1004, H1121, H1323, H1755, H2232, H2233, H3205, H3211, H3318, H3409, H4294, H5220, H6849, H7611, H8435, G10740, G10850, G46900

(Go back to: [Exodus 16:32](#); [16:33](#))

desert, wilderness

Definition:

A desert, or wilderness, is a dry, barren place where very few plants and trees can grow.

- A desert is a land area with a dry climate and few plants or animals.
- Because of the harsh conditions, very few people can live in the desert, so it is also referred to as “wilderness.”
- “Wilderness” conveys the meaning of being remote, desolate and isolated from people.
- This word can also be translated as “deserted place” or “remote place” or “uninhabited place.”

Bible References:

- Acts 13:16-18
- Acts 21:38
- Exodus 4:27-28
- Genesis 37:21-22
- John 3:14
- Luke 1:80
- Luke 9:12-14
- Mark 1:3
- Matthew 4:1
- Matthew 11:8

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0776, H2723, H3293, H3452, H4057, H6160, H6723, H6728, H6921, H8047, H8414, G20470, G20480

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:1](#); [3:18](#); [4:27](#); [5:1](#); [5:3](#); [7:16](#); [8:27](#); [8:28](#); [13:18](#); [13:20](#); [14:3](#); [14:11](#); [14:12](#); [15:22](#); [16:2](#); [16:3](#); [16:10](#); [16:14](#); [16:32](#); [17:1](#); [18:5](#); [19:1](#); [19:2](#); [23:31](#))

desolate, desolation, alone, deserted

Definition:

The terms “desolate” and “desolation” refer to destroying an inhabited region so that it becomes uninhabited.

- When referring to a person, the term “desolate” describes a condition of ruin, loneliness, and grief.
- The term “desolation” is the state or condition of being desolated.
- If a field where crops are growing is made desolate, it means that something has destroyed the crops, such as insects or an invading army.
- A “desolate region” refers to an area of land where few people live because few crops or other vegetation grow there.
- A “desolate land” or “wilderness” was often where outcasts (such as lepers) and dangerous animals lived.
- If a city is “made desolate” it means that its buildings and goods have been destroyed or stolen, and its people have been killed or captured. The city becomes “empty” and “ruined.” This is similar to the meaning of “devastate” or “devastated,” but with more emphasis on the emptiness.
- Depending on the context, this term could be translated as “ruined” or “destroyed” or “laid waste” or “lonely and outcast” or “deserted.”

(See also: [desert](#), devastate, [ruin](#), waste)

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 22:19
- Acts 1:20
- Daniel 9:17-19
- Lamentations 3:11
- Luke 11:17
- Matthew 12:25

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0490, H0816, H0910, H1565, H2717, H2720, H2721, H2723, H3173, H3341, H3456, H3582, H4875, H4923, H5352, H5800, H7582, H7701, H7722, H8047, H8074, H8076, H8077, G20480, G20490, G20500, G34430

(Go back to: [Exodus 23:29](#))

destroy, destruction, annihilate

Definition:

The term “destroy” means to completely make an end to something, so that it no longer exists.

- The term “destroyer” means “a person who destroys.”
- This term is often used in the Old Testament as a general reference to anyone who destroys other people, such as an invading army.
- When God sent the angel to kill all the firstborn males in Egypt, that angel was referred to as “the destroyer of the firstborn.” This could be translated as “the one (or angel) who killed the firstborn males.”
- In the book of Revelation about the end times, Satan or some other evil spirit is called “the Destroyer.” He is the “one who destroys” because his purpose is to destroy and ruin everything God created.

(See also: [angel](#), [Egypt](#), [firstborn](#), [Passover](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 12:23
- Hebrews 11:28
- Jeremiah 6:26
- Judges 16:24

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0006, H0007, H0622, H0398, H1104, H1197, H1820, H1826, H1942, H2000, H2015, H2026, H2040, H2254, H2255, H2717, H2718, H2763, H2764, H3238, H3341, H3381, H3423, H3582, H3615, H3617, H3772, H3807, H4191, H4229, H4591, H4658, H4889, H5218, H5221, H5307, H5362, H5420, H5422, H5428, H5595, H5642, H6365, H6789, H6979, H7665, H7667, H7703, H7722, H7760, H7843, H7921, H8045, H8074, H8077, H8316, H8552, G03550, G03960, G06220, G08530, G13110, G18420, G20490, G25060, G25070, G26470, G26730, G27040, G30890, G36450, G41990, G53510, G53560

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:15](#); [12:13](#); [12:23](#); [21:26](#); [22:20](#); [23:23](#); [32:10](#); [32:12](#); [33:3](#); [33:5](#))

devour

Definition:

The term "devour" means to eat or consume in an aggressive manner.

- Using this word in a figurative sense, Paul warned believers to not devour one another, meaning to not attack or destroy each other with words or actions (Galatians 5:15).
- Also in a figurative sense, the term "devour" is often used with a meaning of "completely destroy" as when talking about nations devouring each other or a fire devouring buildings and people.
- This term could also be translated as "completely consume" or "totally destroy."

(See also: [consume](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Peter 5:8
- Amos 1:10
- Exodus 24:17
- Ezekiel 16:20
- Luke 15:30
- Matthew 23:13-15
- Psalms 21:9

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0398, H0399, H0400, H0402, H1104, H1105, H3216, H3615, H3857, H3898, H7462, H7602, G20680, G26660, G27190, G53150

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:5](#); [10:12](#); [10:15](#); [15:7](#); [24:17](#))

die, dead, deadly, death

Definition:

The term "death" refers to being physically dead instead of alive.

1. Physical death

- To "die" means to stop living. Death is the end of physical life.
- The expression "put to death" refers to killing or murdering someone, especially when a king or other ruler gives an order for someone to be killed.

2. Eternal death

- Eternal death is the separation of a person from God.
- This is the kind of death that happened to Adam when he sinned and disobeyed God. His relationship with God was broken. He became ashamed and tried to hide from God.
- This same kind of death happens to every person, because we sin. But God gives us eternal life when we have faith in Jesus Christ.

Translation Suggestions:

- To translate this term, it is best to use the everyday, natural word or expression in the target language that refers to death.
- In some languages, to "die" may be expressed as to "not live." The term "dead" may be translated as "not alive" or "not having any life" or "not living."
- Many languages use figurative expressions to describe death, such as to "pass away" in English. However, in the Bible it is best to use the most direct term for death that is used in everyday language.
- In the Bible, eternal life and eternal death are often compared to physical life and physical death. It is important in a translation to use the same word or phrase for both physical death and eternal death.
- In some languages it may be more clear to say "eternal death" when the context requires that meaning. Some translators may also feel it is best to say "physical death" in contexts where it is being contrasted to spiritual death.
- The expression "the dead" is a nominal adjective that refers to people who have died. Some languages will translate this as "dead people" or "people who have died." (See: [nominal adjective](#))
- The expression "put to death" could also be translated as "kill" or "murder" or "execute."

(See also: [believe](#), [faith](#), [life](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 15:21
- 1 Thessalonians 4:17
- Acts 10:42
- Acts 14:19
- Colossians 2:15
- Colossians 2:20
- Genesis 2:15-17
- Genesis 34:27
- Matthew 16:28
- Romans 5:10

- Romans 5:12
- Romans 6:10

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **1:11** God told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If he ate from this tree, he would **die**.
- **2:11** "Then you will **die**, and your body will return to dirt."
- **7:10** Then Isaac **died**, and Jacob and Esau buried him.
- **37:5** Jesus replied, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he **dies**. Everyone who believes in me will never **die**."
- **40:8** Through his **death**, Jesus opened a way for people to come to God.
- **43:7** "Although Jesus **died**, God raised him from the dead."
- **48:2** Because they sinned, everyone on earth gets sick and everyone **dies**.
- **50:17** He (Jesus) will wipe away every tear and there will be no more suffering, sadness, crying, evil, pain, or **death**.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0006, H1478, H1826, H1934, H2491, H4191, H4192, H4193, H4194, H4463, H5038, H5315, H6297, H6757, H7496, H7523, H8045, H8546, H8552, G03360, G03370, G05200, G05990, G06150, G06220, G16340, G19350, G20790, G22530, G22860, G22870, G22880, G22890, G23480, G28370, G29660, G34980, G34990, G35000, G44300, G48800, G48810, G50530, G50540

(Go back to: Exodus 1:6; 1:16; 2:23; 4:19; 7:18; 7:21; 8:13; 9:4; 9:6; 9:7; 9:19; 10:17; 10:28; 11:5; 12:30; 12:33; 14:11; 14:12; 14:30; 16:3; 17:3; 19:12; 20:19; 21:12; 21:14; 21:15; 21:16; 21:17; 21:18; 21:20; 21:28; 21:29; 21:34; 21:35; 21:36; 22:2; 22:10; 22:14; 22:19; 23:7; 28:35; 28:43; 30:20; 30:21; 31:14; 31:15; 35:2)

disperse, dispersion, scatter, distributed

Definition:

The terms “disperse” and “dispersion” refer to the scattering of people or things into many different directions.

- In the Old Testament, God talks about “dispersing” people, causing them to have to separate and live in different places apart from each other. He did this to punish them for their sin. Perhaps being dispersed would help them repent and start worshiping God again.
- The term “dispersion” is used in the New Testament to refer to Christians who had to leave their homes and move to many different locations to escape persecution.
- The phrase “the dispersion” could be translated as “believers in many different places” or “the people who moved away to live in different nations.”
- The term “disperse” could be translated as “send away into many different places” or “scatter abroad” or “cause to move away to live in different countries.”

(See also: [believe](#), persecute, [captive](#), exile)

Bible References:

- 1 Peter 1:1
- Ezekiel 12:15
- Ezekiel 30:23
- Psalms 18:14

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2219, H5310, H6327, H6340, H6504, H8600, G12870, G12900, G46500

(Go back to: [Exodus 5:12](#))

donkey, mule

Definition:

A donkey is a four-legged work animal, similar to a horse, but smaller and with longer ears.

- A mule is the sterile offspring of a male donkey and a female horse.
- Mules are very strong animals and so they are valuable work animals.
- Both donkeys and mules are used for carrying burdens and people when traveling.
- In Bible times, kings would ride a donkey in times of peace, rather than a horse, which was used for times of war.
- Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey a week before he was crucified there.

(See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 1:32-34
- 1 Samuel 9:4
- 2 Kings 4:21-22
- Deuteronomy 5:12-14
- Luke 13:15
- Matthew 21:2

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0860, H2543, H3222, H5895, H6167, H6501, H6505, H6506, G36780, G36880, G52680

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:20; 9:3; 13:13; 20:17; 21:33; 22:4; 22:9; 22:10; 23:4; 23:5; 23:12; 34:20](#))

doorpost

Definition:

The “doorpost” is a vertical beam on either side of a door, which supports the top of the door frame.

- Just before God helped the Israelites escape from Egypt, he instructed them to kill a lamb and put its blood on their doorposts.
- In the Old Testament, a slave who desired to serve his master the rest of his life would place his ear on the doorpost of his master’s house to have a nail hammered through his ear into the doorpost.
- This could also be translated as “wooden post on either side of a door” or “sides of a wooden doorframe” or “wood beams on the sides of a doorway.”

(See also: [Egypt](#), [Passover](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 6:31-32
- Deuteronomy 11:20
- Exodus 12:7
- Isaiah 57:7-8

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0352, H4201

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:7](#); [12:22](#); [12:23](#))

drink offering

Definition:

A drink offering was a sacrifice to God that involved pouring wine on an altar. It was often offered together with a burnt offering and a grain offering.

- Paul refers to his life as being poured out like a drink offering. This means that he was totally dedicated to serving God and telling people about Jesus, even though he knew he would suffer and probably be killed because of that.
- Jesus' death on the cross was the ultimate drink offering, as his blood was poured out on the cross for our sins.

Translation Suggestions:

- Another way to translate this term could be "offering of grape wine."
- When Paul says he is being "poured out like an offering" this could also be translated as "I am completely committed to teaching God's message to people, just like an offering of wine is poured out completely on the altar."

(See also: [burnt offering](#), [grain offering](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 25:29
- Ezekiel 45:16-17
- Genesis 35:14
- Jeremiah 7:16-18
- Numbers 5:15

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5257, H5261, H5262

(Go back to: [Exodus 29:40](#); [29:41](#); [30:9](#))

earth, land

Definition:

The term “earth” refers to the world on which human beings and other living things live. In the Bible, this term is sometimes translated as “land” when used in a general way to refer to the ground or the soil, or when used in a specific way to refer to a particular geographical area, usually a country or nation.

- In the Bible, the term “earth” is often paired with the term “heaven” as a way of indicating the abode of humankind on the earth in contrast with the abode of God in heaven.
- This term is usually translated “land” when paired with the name of people group to denote the territory belonging to those people, such as “the land of Canaan.”
- The term “earthly” is sometimes used to refer to things that are physical and/or visible in contrast to things that are non-physical and/or invisible.
- This term can be used figuratively to refer to the people who live on the earth or what the earth contains, such as in “let the earth be glad” and “he will judge the earth.”

Translation Suggestions:

- This term can be translated by the word or phrase that the local language or nearby national languages use to refer to the planet earth on which we live.
- Depending on the context, “earth” could also be translated as “world” or “land” or “dirt” or “soil.”
- When used figuratively, “earth” could be translated as “people on the earth” or “people living on earth” or “everything on earth.”
- Ways to translate “earthly” could include “physical” or “things of this earth” or “visible.”

(See also: world, [heaven](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 1:38-40
- 2 Chronicles 2:11-12
- Daniel 4:35
- Luke 12:51
- Matthew 6:10
- Matthew 11:25
- Zechariah 6:5

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0127, H0772, H0776, H0778, H2789, H3007, H3335, H6083, H7494, G10930, G19190, G27090, G28860, G36250, G45780, G55170

(Go back to: Exodus 1:7; 1:10; 2:22; 3:8; 3:17; 4:3; 4:20; 5:5; 5:12; 6:1; 6:4; 6:8; 6:11; 6:13; 6:26; 6:28; 7:2; 7:3; 7:4; 7:19; 7:21; 8:5; 8:6; 8:7; 8:14; 8:16; 8:17; 8:22; 8:24; 8:25; 9:5; 9:9; 9:14; 9:15; 9:16; 9:22; 9:23; 9:24; 9:25; 9:26; 9:29; 9:33; 10:5; 10:6; 10:12; 10:13; 10:14; 10:15; 10:21; 10:22; 11:3; 11:5; 11:6; 11:9; 11:10; 12:1; 12:12; 12:13; 12:17; 12:19; 12:25; 12:29; 12:33; 12:41; 12:42; 12:48; 12:51; 13:5; 13:11; 13:15; 13:17; 13:18; 14:3; 15:12; 16:1; 16:3; 16:6; 16:14; 16:32; 16:35; 18:3; 18:27; 19:1; 19:5; 20:2; 20:4; 20:11; 20:12; 22:21; 23:9; 23:10; 23:26; 23:29; 23:30; 23:31; 23:33; 29:46; 31:17; 32:1; 32:4; 32:7; 32:8; 32:11; 32:12; 32:13; 32:23; 33:1; 33:3; 33:16; 34:8; 34:10; 34:12; 34:15; 34:24)

Edom, Edomite, Idumea

Facts:

Edom was another name for Esau. The region where he lived also became known as “Edom” and later, “Idumea.” The “Edomites” were his descendants.

- The region of Edom changed locations over time. It was mostly located to the south of Israel and eventually extended into southern Judah.
- During New Testament times, Edom covered the southern half of the province of Judea. The Greeks called it “Idumea.”
- The name “Edom” means “red,” which may refer to the fact that Esau was covered with red hair when he was born. Or it may refer to the red lentil stew that Esau traded his birthright for.
- In the Old Testament, the country of Edom is often mentioned as an enemy of Israel.
- The entire book of Obadiah is about the destruction of Edom. Other Old Testament prophets also spoke negative prophecies against Edom.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [adversary](#), [birthright](#), [Esau](#), [Obadiah](#), [prophet](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 25:30
- Genesis 32:3
- Genesis 36:1
- Isaiah 11:14-15
- Joshua 11:16-17
- Obadiah 1:2

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0123, H0130, H8165, G24010

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:15](#))

Egypt, Egyptian

Facts:

Egypt is a country in the northeast part of Africa, to the southwest of the land of Canaan. An Egyptian is a person who is from the country of Egypt.

- In ancient times, Egypt was a powerful and wealthy country.
- Ancient Egypt was divided into two parts, Lower Egypt (northern part where the Nile River flowed downward into the sea) and Upper Egypt (southern part). In the Old Testament, these parts are referred to as “Egypt” and “Pathros” in the original language text.
- Several times when there was little food in Canaan, Israel’s patriarchs traveled to Egypt to buy food for their families.
- For several hundred years, the Israelites were slaves in Egypt.
- Joseph and Mary went down to Egypt with the young child Jesus, to escape from Herod the Great.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: Herod the Great, Joseph (NT), [Nile River](#), patriarchs)

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 4:7-9
- Acts 7:10
- Exodus 3:7
- Genesis 41:29
- Genesis 41:57
- Matthew 2:15

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **8:4** The slave traders took Joseph to **Egypt**. **Egypt** was a large, powerful country located along the Nile River.
- **8:8** Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph that he appointed him to be the second most powerful man in all of **Egypt!**
- **8:11** So Jacob sent his older sons to *_Egypt_* to buy food.
- **8:14** Even though Jacob was an old man, he moved to **Egypt** with all of his family, and they all lived there.
- **9:1** After Joseph died, all of his relatives stayed in **Egypt**.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H4713, H4714, G01240, G01250

(Go back to: Exodus 1:1; 1:5; 1:8; 1:13; 1:15; 1:17; 1:18; 1:19; 2:11; 2:12; 2:14; 2:19; 2:23; 3:7; 3:8; 3:9; 3:10; 3:11; 3:12; 3:16; 3:17; 3:18; 3:19; 3:20; 3:21; 3:22; 4:18; 4:19; 4:20; 4:21; 5:4; 5:12; 6:5; 6:6; 6:7; 6:11; 6:13; 6:26; 6:27; 6:28; 6:29; 7:3; 7:4; 7:5; 7:11; 7:18; 7:19; 7:21; 7:22; 7:24; 8:5; 8:6; 8:7; 8:16; 8:17; 8:21; 8:24; 8:26; 9:4; 9:6; 9:9; 9:11; 9:18; 9:22; 9:23; 9:24; 9:25; 10:2; 10:6; 10:7; 10:12; 10:13; 10:14; 10:15; 10:19; 10:21; 10:22; 11:1; 11:3; 11:4; 11:5; 11:6; 11:7; 11:9; 12:1; 12:12; 12:13; 12:17; 12:23; 12:27; 12:29; 12:30; 12:33; 12:35; 12:36; 12:39; 12:40; 12:41; 12:42; 12:51; 13:3; 13:8; 13:9; 13:14; 13:15; 13:16; 13:17; 13:18; 14:4; 14:5; 14:7; 14:8; 14:9; 14:10; 14:11; 14:12; 14:13; 14:17; 14:18; 14:20; 14:23; 14:24; 14:25; 14:26; 14:27; 14:30; 14:31; 15:26; 16:1; 16:3; 16:6; 16:32; 17:3; 18:1; 18:8; 18:9; 18:10; 19:1; 19:4; 20:2; 22:21; 23:9; 23:15; 29:46; 32:1; 32:4; 32:7; 32:8; 32:11; 32:12; 32:23; 33:1; 34:18)

elder, older, old

Definition:

The term “elder” or “older” refers to people (in the Bible, usually men) who have grown old enough to become mature adults and leaders within a community. For example, elders might have gray hair, have adult children, or perhaps even have grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

- The term “elder” came from the fact that elders were originally older men who, because of their age and experience, had greater wisdom.
- In the Old Testament, the elders helped lead the Israelites in matters of justice and the Law of Moses.
- In the New Testament, Jewish “elders” continued to be leaders in their communities and also were judges for the people.
- In the early Christian churches, Christian “elders” gave spiritual leadership to the local assemblies of believers. Elders in these churches sometimes included young men who were spiritually mature.
- This term could be translated as “older men” or “spiritually mature men leading the church.”

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 11:1-3
- 1 Timothy 3:1-3
- 1 Timothy 4:14
- Acts 5:19-21
- Acts 14:23
- Mark 11:28
- Matthew 21:23-24

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1419, H2205, H7868, G10870, G31870, G42440, G42450, G48500

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:16](#); [3:18](#); [4:29](#); [12:21](#); [17:5](#); [17:6](#); [18:12](#); [19:7](#); [24:1](#); [24:14](#))

Eleazar

Facts:

Eleazar was the name of several men in the Bible.

Eleazar was the third son of Moses' brother Aaron. After Aaron died, Eleazar became the high priest in Israel.

Eleazar was also the name of one of David's "mighty men."

Another Eleazar was one of Jesus' ancestors.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Aaron](#), high priest, David, [mighty](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 24:3
- Judges 20:27-28
- Numbers 26:1-2
- Numbers 34:16-18

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0499, G16480

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:23](#); [6:25](#); [28:1](#))

Enoch

Facts:

Enoch was the name of two men in the Old Testament.

- One man named Enoch was descended from Seth. He was the great grandfather of Noah.
- This Enoch had a close relationship with God and when he was 365 years old, God took him to heaven while he was still alive.
- A different man named Enoch was a son of Cain.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: Cain, Seth)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 1:3
- Genesis 5:18-20
- Genesis 5:24
- Jude 1:14
- Luke 3:36-38

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2585, G18020

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:14](#))

enslave, slave, bondservant, bound

Definition:

To “enslave” someone means to force that person to serve a master or a ruling country. To be “enslaved” or “in bondage” means to be under the control of something or someone.

- A person who is enslaved or in bondage must serve others without payment; he is not free to do what he wants. Another word for “bondage” is “slavery.”
- The New Testament speaks of human beings as “enslaved” to sin until Jesus frees them from its control and power. When a person receives new life in Christ, he stops being a slave to sin and becomes a slave to righteousness.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “enslave” could be translated as “cause to not be free” or “force to serve others” or “put under the control of others.”
- The phrase “enslaved to” or “in bondage to” could be translated as “forced to be a slave of” or “forced to serve” or “under the control of.”

(See also: [free](#), [righteous](#), [servant](#))

Bible References:

- Galatians 4:3
- Galatians 4:24-25
- Genesis 15:13
- Jeremiah 30:8-9

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3533, H5647, G13980, G14020, G26150

(Go back to: [Exodus 21:16](#))

ephod

Definition:

An ephod was an apron-like garment worn by the Israelite priests. It had two parts, front and back, that were joined together at the shoulders and tied around the waist with a cloth belt.

- One kind of ephod was made of plain linen and was worn by the ordinary priests.
- The ephod worn by the high priest was specially embroidered with gold, blue, purple, and red yarn.
- The breastpiece of the high priest was attached to the front of the ephod. Behind the breastpiece were stored the Urim and Thummim, which were stones used for asking God what his will was in certain matters.
- The judge Gideon foolishly made an ephod out of gold and it became something that the Israelites worshiped as an idol.

(See also: [priest](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 2:18-19
- Exodus 28:4-5
- Hosea 3:4
- Judges 8:27
- Leviticus 8:7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0641, H0642, H0646

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:7](#); [28:4](#); [28:6](#); [28:8](#); [28:12](#); [28:15](#); [28:25](#); [28:26](#); [28:27](#); [28:28](#); [28:31](#); [29:5](#); [35:9](#); [35:27](#); [39:2](#); [39:7](#); [39:8](#); [39:18](#); [39:19](#); [39:20](#); [39:21](#); [39:22](#))

eternity, everlasting, eternal, forever

Definition:

The terms “everlasting” and “eternal” have very similar meanings and refer to something that will always exist or that lasts forever.

- The term “eternity” refers to a state of being that has no beginning or end. It can also refer to life that never ends.
- After this present life on earth, humans will spend eternity either in heaven with God or in hell apart from God.
- The terms “eternal life” and “everlasting life” are used in the New Testament to refer to living forever with God in heaven.

The term “forever” refers to never-ending time.

- The phrase “forever and ever” has the idea of time that never ends and expresses what eternity or eternal life is like. It emphasizes that something will always happen or exist. It refers to time that never ends.
- God said that David’s throne would last “forever.” This is referred to the fact that David’s descendant Jesus will reign as king forever.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate “eternal” or “everlasting” could include “unending” or “never stopping” or “always continuing.”
- The terms “eternal life” and “everlasting life” could also be translated as “life that never ends” or “life that continues without stopping” or “the raising up of our bodies to live forever.”
- Depending on the context, different ways to translate “eternity” could include “existing outside of time” or “unending life” or “life in heaven.”
- Also consider how this word is translated in a Bible translation in a local or national language. (See: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))
- “Forever” could also be translated by “always” or “never ending.”
- The phrase “will last forever” could also be translated as “always exist” or “will never stop” or “will always continue.”
- The emphatic phrase “forever and ever” could also be translated as “for always and always” or “not ever ending” or “which never, ever ends.”
- David’s throne lasting forever could be translated as “David’s descendant will reign forever” or “a descendant of David will always be reigning.”

(See also: David, [reign](#), [life](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 17:8
- Genesis 48:4
- Exodus 15:17
- 2 Samuel 3:28-30
- 1 Kings 2:32-33
- Job 4:20-21
- Psalms 21:4
- Isaiah 9:6-7
- Isaiah 40:27-28
- Daniel 7:18

- Luke 18:18
- Acts 13:46
- Romans 5:21
- Hebrews 6:19-20
- Hebrews 10:11-14
- 1 John 1:2
- 1 John 5:12
- Revelation 1:4-6
- Revelation 22:3-5

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **27:1** One day, an expert in the Jewish law came to Jesus to test him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit **eternal life**?”
- **28:1** One day, a rich young ruler came up to Jesus and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to have **eternal life**?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only One who is good, and that is God. But if you want to have **eternal life**, obey God’s laws.”
- **28:10** Jesus answered, “Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or property for my name’s sake, will receive 100 times more and will also receive **eternal life**.”

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H3117, H4481, H5331, H5703, H5705, H5769, H5865, H5957, H6924, G01260, G01650, G01660, G13360

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:15](#); [12:14](#); [12:17](#); [12:24](#); [14:13](#); [15:18](#); [19:9](#); [21:6](#); [27:21](#); [28:43](#); [29:9](#); [29:28](#); [31:16](#); [31:17](#); [32:13](#); [40:15](#))

Euphrates River, the River

Facts:

The Euphrates is the name of one of the four rivers that flowed through the Garden of Eden. It is the river that is most often mentioned in the Bible.

- The modern day river named Euphrates is located in the Middle East and is the longest and most important river in Asia.
- Together with the Tigris River, the Euphrates borders a region of land known as Mesopotamia.
- The ancient city of Ur where Abraham came from was at the mouth of the Euphrates River.
- This river was one of the boundaries of the land that God promised to give to Abraham (Genesis 15:18).
- Sometimes the Euphrates is simply called "the River."

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 5:7-9
- 2 Chronicles 9:25-26
- Exodus 23:30-33
- Genesis 2:13-14
- Isaiah 7:20

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5104, H6578, G21660

(Go back to: [Exodus 23:31](#))

evil, wicked, unpleasant

Definition:

In the Bible, the term “evil” can refer either to the concept of moral wickedness or emotional unpleasantness. The context will usually make it clear which meaning is intended in the specific instance of the term.

- While “evil” may describe a person’s character, “wicked” may refer more to a person’s behavior. However, both terms are very similar in meaning.
- The term “wickedness” refers to the state of being that exists when people do wicked things.
- The results of evil are clearly shown in how people mistreat others by killing, stealing, slandering and being cruel and unkind.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the terms “evil” and “wicked” can be translated as “bad” or “sinful” or “immoral.”
- Other ways to translate these could include “not good” or “not righteous” or “not moral.”
- Make sure the words or phrases that are used to translate these terms fit the context that is natural in the target language.

(See also: disobey, [sin](#), [good](#), [righteous](#), demon)

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 24:11
- 1 Timothy 6:10
- 3 John 1:10
- Genesis 2:17
- Genesis 6:5-6
- Job 1:1
- Job 8:20
- Judges 9:57
- Luke 6:22-23
- Matthew 7:11-12
- Proverbs 3:7
- Psalms 22:16-17

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **2:4** “God just knows that as soon as you eat it, you will be like God and will understand good and **evil** like he does.”
- **3:1** After a long time, many people were living in the world. They had become very **wicked** and violent.
- **3:2** But Noah found favor with God. He was a righteous man living among **wicked** people.
- **4:2** God saw that if they all kept working together to do **evil**, they could do many more sinful things.
- **8:12** “You tried to do **evil** when you sold me as a slave, but God used the **evil** for good!”
- **14:2** They (Canaanites) worshiped false gods and did many **evil** things.
- **17:1** But then he (Saul) became a **wicked** man who did not obey God, so God chose a different man who would one day be king in his place.
- **18:11** In the new kingdom of Israel, all the kings were **evil**.
- **29:8** The king was so angry that he threw the **wicked** servant into prison until he could pay back all of his debt.
- **45:2** They said, “We heard him (Stephen) speak **evil** things about Moses and God!”

- **50:17** He (Jesus) will wipe away every tear and there will be no more suffering, sadness, crying, **evil**, pain, or death.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0205, H0605, H1100, H1681, H1942, H2154, H2162, H2254, H2617, H3399, H3415, H4209, H4849, H5753, H5766, H5767, H5999, H6001, H6090, H7451, H7455, H7489, H7561, H7562, H7563, H7564, G00920, G01130, G04590, G09320, G09870, G09880, G14260, G25490, G25510, G25540, G25550, G25560, G25570, G25590, G25600, G26350, G26360, G41510, G41890, G41900, G41910, G53370

(Go back to: [Exodus 7 General Notes](#); [10:10](#); [23:2](#); [23:7](#); [32:12](#); [32:14](#); [32:22](#); [33:4](#))

ewe, ram, sheep, sheepfold, sheepshearers, sheepskins

Definition:

A “sheep” is a medium-sized animal with four legs that has wool all over its body. A male sheep is called a “ram.” A female sheep is called a “ewe.” The plural of “sheep” is also “sheep.”

- A baby sheep is called a “lamb.”
- The Israelites often used sheep for sacrifices, especially male sheep and young sheep.
- People eat meat from sheep and use their wool to make clothing and other things.
- Sheep are very trusting, weak, and timid. They are easily influenced to wander away. They need a shepherd to lead them, protect them, and provide them with food, water, and shelter.
- In the Bible, people are compared to sheep who have God as their shepherd.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: [Israel](#), [lamb](#), [sacrifice](#), [shepherd](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 8:32
- Genesis 30:32
- John 2:14
- Luke 15:5
- Mark 6:34
- Matthew 9:36
- Matthew 10:6
- Matthew 12:12
- Matthew 25:33

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **9:12** One day while Moses was taking care of his **sheep**, he saw a bush that was on fire.
- **17:2** David was a shepherd from the town of Bethlehem. At different times while he was watching his father’s **sheep**, David had killed both a lion and a bear that had attacked the **sheep**.
- **30:3** To Jesus, these people were like **sheep** without a shepherd.
- **38:8** Jesus said, “All of you will all abandon me tonight. It is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd and all the **sheep** will be scattered.’”

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0352, H1494, H1798, H2169, H3104, H3532, H3535, H3733, H3775, H5739, H5763, H6260, H6629, H6792, H7353, H7462, H7716, G41650, G42620, G42630

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:5](#); [15:15](#); [20:24](#); [22:1](#); [22:4](#); [22:9](#); [22:10](#); [22:30](#); [25:5](#); [26:14](#); [29:1](#); [29:3](#); [29:15](#); [29:16](#); [29:17](#); [29:18](#); [29:19](#); [29:20](#); [29:22](#); [29:26](#); [29:27](#); [29:31](#); [29:32](#); [34:19](#); [35:7](#); [35:23](#); [36:19](#); [39:34](#))

exalt, exalted, exaltation

Definition:

To exalt is to highly praise and honor someone. It can also mean to put someone in a high position.

- In the Bible, the term “exalt” is most often used for exalting God.
- When a person exalts himself, it means he is thinking about himself in a proud or arrogant way.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate “exalt” could include “highly praise” or “honor greatly” or “extol” or “speak highly of.”
- In some contexts it could be translated by a word or phrase that means “put in a higher position” or “give more honor to” or “talk about proudly.”
- “Do not exalt yourself” could also be translated as “Do not think of yourself too highly” or “Do not brag about yourself.”
- “Those that exalt themselves” could also be translated as “Those who think proudly about themselves” or “Those who boast about themselves.”

(See also: [praise](#), [worship](#), [glory](#), boast, [proud](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Peter 5:5-7
- 2 Samuel 22:47
- Acts 5:31
- Philippians 2:9-11
- Psalms 18:46

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1361, H4984, H5375, H5549, H5927, H7311, H7426, H7682, G18690, G52290, G52510, G53110, G53120

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:17](#); [15:2](#))

face, facial

Definition:

The word “face” literally refers to the front part of a person’s head. This term also has several figurative meanings in the Bible.

- In the Bible, the term “face” is often used figuratively to mean a person’s presence, the front of an object, or the surface of something.
- When referring to a person, the term “face” is often used figuratively to mean the action of seeing, which can represent that person’s knowledge, perception, notice, attention, or judgment.
- In a physical sense, to “face” someone or something means to look in the direction of that person or thing.
- To “face each other” means to “look directly at each other.”
- Being “face to face” means that two people are seeing each other in person, at a close distance.
- When Jesus “steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,” it means that he very firmly decided to go.
- To “set one’s face against” people or a city means to firmly decide to no longer support, or to reject that city or person.
- The expression “face of the land” refers to the surface of the earth and often is a general reference to the whole earth. For example, a “famine covering the face of the earth” refers to a widespread famine affecting many people living on earth.
- The figurative expression “do not hide your face from your people” means “do not reject your people” or “do not desert your people” or “do not stop taking care of your people.”

Translation Suggestions:

- If possible, it is best to keep the expression or use an expression in the project language that has a similar meaning.
- The term to “face” could be translated as to “turn toward” or to “look at directly” or to “look at the face of.”
- The expression “face to face” could be translated as “up close” or “right in front of” or “in the presence of.”
- Depending on the context, the expression “before his face” could be translated as “ahead of him” or “in front of him” or “before him” or “in his presence.”
- The expression “set his face toward” could be translated as “began traveling toward” or “firmly made up his mind to go to.”
- The expression “hide his face from” could be translated as “turn away from” or “stop helping or protecting” or “reject.”
- To “set his face against” a city or people could be translated as “look at with anger and condemn” or “refuse to accept” or “decide to reject” or “condemn and reject” or “pass judgment on.”
- The expression “say it to their face” could be translated as “say it to them directly” or “say it to them in their presence” or “say it to them in person.”
- The expression “on the face of the land” could also be translated as “throughout the land” or “over the whole land” or “living throughout the land.”

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 5:4
- Genesis 33:10

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0600, H0639, H5869, H6440, H8389, G37990, G43830, G47500

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:6](#); [7:9](#); [7:10](#); [8:20](#); [10:28](#); [10:29](#); [11:10](#); [14:19](#); [19:18](#); [20:20](#); [33:23](#); [34:11](#); [34:34](#); [34:35](#))

faith

Definition:

In general, the term “faith” refers to a belief, trust or confidence in someone or something.

- To “have faith” in someone is to believe that what he says and does is true and trustworthy.
- To “have faith in Jesus” means to believe all of God’s teachings about Jesus. It especially means that people trust in Jesus and his sacrifice to cleanse them from their sin and to rescue them from the punishment they deserve because of their sin.
- True faith or belief in Jesus will cause a person to produce good spiritual fruits or behaviors because the Holy Spirit is living in him.
- Sometimes “faith” refers generally to all the teachings about Jesus, as in the expression “the truths of the faith.”
- In contexts such as “keep the faith” or “abandon the faith,” the term “faith” refers to the state or condition of believing all the teachings about Jesus.

Translation Suggestions:

- In some contexts, “faith” can be translated as “belief” or “conviction” or “confidence” or “trust.”
- For some languages these terms will be translated using forms of the verb “believe.” (See: [abstractnouns](#))
- The expression “keep the faith” could be translated by “keep believing in Jesus” or “continue to believe in Jesus.”
- The sentence “they must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith” could be translated by “they must keep believing all the true things about Jesus that they have been taught.”
- The expression “my true son in the faith” could be translated by something like “who is like a son to me because I taught him to believe in Jesus” or “my true spiritual son, who believes in Jesus.”

(See also: [believe](#), [faithful](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Timothy 4:7
- Acts 6:7
- Galatians 2:20-21
- James 2:20

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **5:6** When Isaac was a young man, God tested Abraham’s **faith** by saying, “Take Isaac, your only son, and kill him as a sacrifice to me.”
- **31:7** Then he (Jesus) said to Peter, “You man of little **faith**, why did you doubt?”
- **32:16** Jesus said to her, “Your **faith** has healed you. Go in peace.”
- **38:9** Then Jesus said to Peter, “Satan wants to have all of you, but I have prayed for you, Peter, that your **faith** will not fail.”

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0529, H0530, G16800, G36400, G41020, G60660

(Go back to: [Exodus 14 General Notes](#))

faithful, faithfulness, trustworthy

Definition:

To be “faithful” to God means to consistently live according to God’s teachings. It means to be loyal to him by obeying him. The state or condition of being faithful is “faithfulness.”

- A person who is faithful can be trusted to always keep his promises and to always fulfill his responsibilities to other people.
- A faithful person perseveres in doing a task, even when it is long and difficult.
- Faithfulness to God is the consistent practice of doing what God wants us to do.

Translation Suggestions:

- In many contexts, “faithful” can be translated as “loyal” or “dedicated” or “dependable.”
- In other contexts, “faithful” can be translated by a word or phrase that means “continuing to believe” or “persevering in believing and obeying God.”
- Ways that “faithfulness” could be translated could include “persevering in believing” or “loyalty” or “trustworthiness” or “believing and obeying God.”

(See also: [believe](#), [faith](#), [believe](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 24:49
- Leviticus 26:40
- Numbers 12:7
- Joshua 2:14
- Judges 2:16-17
- 1 Samuel 2:9
- Psalm 12:1
- Proverbs 11:12-13
- Isaiah 1:26
- Jeremiah 9:7-9
- Hosea 5:7
- Luke 12:46
- Luke 16:10
- Colossians 1:7
- 1 Thessalonians 5:24
- 3 John 1:5

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **8:5** Even in prison, Joseph remained **faithful** to God, and God blessed him.
- **14:12** Even so, God was still **faithful** to His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- **15:13** The people promised to remain **faithful** to God and follow his laws.
- **17:9** David ruled with justice and **faithfulness** for many years, and God blessed him. However, toward the end of his life he sinned terribly against God.
- **35:12** “The older son said to his father, ‘All these years I have worked **faithfully** for you!’”
- **49:17** But God is **faithful** and says that if you confess your sins, he will forgive you.
- **50:4** “If you remain **faithful** to me to the end, then God will save you.”

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0529, H0530, H0539, H0540, H0571, H0898, H2181, H4603, H4604, H4820, G05690, G05710, G41030

(Go back to: [Exodus 18:21](#); [19:9](#))

famine

Definition:

The term “famine” refers to an extreme lack of food throughout a country or region, usually due to not enough rain.

- Food crops can fail from natural causes such as lack of rain, crop disease, or insects.
- Food shortages can also be caused by people, such as enemies who destroy crops.
- In the Bible, God sometimes caused famine as a way to punish nations when they sinned against him.
- In Amos 8:11 the term “famine” is used figuratively to refer to a time when God punished his people by not speaking to them. This could be translated with the word for “famine” in your language, or with a phrase such as “extreme lack” or “severe deprivation.”

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 21:11-12
- Acts 7:11
- Genesis 12:10
- Genesis 45:6
- Jeremiah 11:21-23
- Luke 4:25
- Matthew 24:8

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3720, H7458, H7459, G30420

(Go back to: [Exodus 16:3](#))

favor, favorable, favoritism

Definition:

The term “favor” generally means approval. Someone who favors another person regards that person positively and approves of them.

- Jesus grew up “in favor with” God and men. This means that both God and others approved of his character and behavior.
- The expression “find favor” with someone means that someone is approved of by that person.
- When a king shows favor to someone, it often means that he approves of that person’s request and grants it.
- A “favor” can also be a gesture or action towards or for another person for their benefit.
- The term “favoritism” means an attitude of acting favorably toward some people but not others. It means the inclination to pick one person over another or one thing over another because the person or item is preferred. Generally, favoritism is considered unfair.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate the term “favor” could include “approval” or “blessing” or “benefit.”
- The “favorable year of Yahweh” could be translated as “the year (or time) when Yahweh will bring great blessing.”
- The term “favoritism” could be translated as “partiality” or “being prejudiced” or “unjust treatment.” This word is related to the word “favorite,” which means to prefer above all others.

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 2:25-26
- 2 Chronicles 19:7
- 2 Corinthians 1:11
- Acts 24:27
- Genesis 41:16
- Genesis 47:25
- Genesis 50:5

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0995, H1156, H1293, H1779, H1921, H2580, H2603, H2896, H5278, H5375, H5414, H5922, H6213, H6437, H6440, H7521, H7522, H7965, G11840, G36850, G43800, G43820, G54850, G54860

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:21](#); [11:3](#); [12:36](#); [23:3](#); [33:12](#); [33:13](#); [33:16](#); [33:17](#); [33:19](#); [34:9](#))

fear, afraid, frighten

Definition:

The terms "fear" refers to the unpleasant emotion a person feels when experiencing a potential threat to their safety or well-being. In the Bible, however, the term "fear" can also mean an attitude of worship, respect, awe, or obedience toward another person, usually someone powerful such as God or a king.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term "fear" can be translated in various ways. Some possibilities include: "be afraid;" "deeply respect," or "deep respect;" "revere," or "reverence;" or perhaps "be in awe of."
- The phrase "fear not" could also be translated as "do not be afraid" or "stop being afraid."
- The sentence "The fear of God fell on all of them" might be translated in various ways. Some possibilities include: "Suddenly they all felt a deep awe and respect for God;" or "Immediately, they all felt very amazed and revered God deeply;" or "Right then, they all felt very afraid of God (because of his great power)."

(See also: awe, [Yahweh](#), [Lord](#), marvel, [power](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 4:18
- Acts 2:43
- Acts 19:15-17
- Genesis 50:21
- Isaiah 11:3-5
- Job 6:14
- Jonah 1:9
- Luke 12:5
- Matthew 10:28
- Proverbs 10:24-25

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0367, H0926, H1204, H1481, H1672, H1674, H1763, H2119, H2296, H2727, H2729, H2730, H2731, H2844, H2849, H2865, H3016, H3025, H3068, H3372, H3373, H3374, H4032, H4034, H4035, H4116, H4172, H6206, H6342, H6343, H6345, H6427, H7264, H7267, H7297, H7374, H7461, H7493, H8175, G08700, G11670, G11680, G11690, G16300, G17190, G21240, G21250, G29620, G53980, G53990, G54000, G54010

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:17](#); [1:21](#); [2:14](#); [3:6](#); [9:20](#); [9:30](#); [14:10](#); [14:13](#); [14:31](#); [15:11](#); [18:21](#); [20:20](#); [34:10](#); [34:30](#))

feast, feasting

Definition:

The term “feast” is a very general term that refers to an event where people gather to celebrate something by eating a large meal together. In biblical times, a feast sometimes lasted for several days or more.

- Often there are special kinds of food that are eaten at a certain feast.
- The religious festivals that God commanded the Jews to celebrate usually included having a feast together. For this reason the festivals are often called “feasts.”
- In biblical times, kings and other rich and powerful people often gave feasts to entertain their family or friends.
- In the story about the lost son, the father had a special feast prepared to celebrate the return of his son.
- The term to “feast” could also be translated as to “eat lavishly” or to “celebrate by eating lots of food” or to “eat a special, large meal.”
- Depending on the context, “feast” could be translated as “celebrating together with a large meal” or “a meal with a lot of food” or “a celebration meal.”

(See also: [festival](#), banquet)

Bible References:

- 2 Peter 2:12-14
- Genesis 26:30
- Genesis 29:22
- Genesis 40:20
- Jude 1:12-13
- Luke 2:43
- Luke 14:7-9
- Matthew 22:1

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0398, H2077, H2282, H3899, H3900, H4150, H4797, H4960, H7646, H8057, H8354, G00260, G10620, G11730, G18590, G21650, G49100

(Go back to: [Exodus 13:10](#); [30:26](#))

festival, feast, celebrate

Definition:

In general, a festival is a celebration held by a community of people.

- The word for “festival” in the Old Testament literally means “appointed time.”
- The festivals celebrated by the Israelites were specially appointed times or seasons that God had commanded them to observe.
- In some English translations, the word “feast” is used instead of festival because the celebrations included having a large meal together.
- There were several main festivals that the Israelites celebrated every year:
 - Passover
 - Festival of Unleavened Bread
 - Firstfruits
 - Festival of Weeks (Pentecost)
 - Festival of Trumpets
 - Day of Atonement
 - Festival of Shelters
- The purpose of these festivals was to thank God and to remember the amazing things he had done to rescue, protect, and provide for his people.

(See also: [feast](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 23:31
- 2 Chronicles 8:13
- Exodus 5:1
- John 4:45
- Luke 22:1

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1974, H2166, H2282, H2287, H6213, H4150, G14560, G18580, G18590

(Go back to: [Exodus 5:1](#); [10:9](#); [12:14](#); [13:6](#); [23:14](#); [23:15](#); [23:16](#); [23:18](#); [32:5](#); [34:18](#); [34:22](#); [34:25](#))

fire, firebrands, firepans, fireplace, firepot

Definition:

Fire is the heat, light, and flames that are produced when something is burned.

- Burning wood by fire turns the wood into ashes.
- Fire could also refer to lightning in the context of a storm or it being from heaven.
- The term “fire” is also used figuratively, usually referring to judgment or purification.
- The final judgment of unbelievers is in the fire of hell.
- Fire is used to refine gold and other metals. In the Bible, this process is used to explain how God refines people through difficult things that happen in their lives.
- The phrase “baptize with fire” could also be translated as “cause to experience suffering in order to be purified.”

(See also: [pure](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 16:18-20
- 2 Kings 1:10
- 2 Thessalonians 1:8
- Acts 7:29-30
- John 15:6
- Luke 3:16
- Matthew 3:12
- Nehemiah 1:3

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0215, H0217, H0398, H0784, H0800, H0801, H1197, H1200, H1513, H2734, H3341, H3857, H4071, H4168, H5135, H6315, H8316, G04390, G04400, G10670, G27410, G44420, G44430, G44470, G44480, G44510, G53940, G54570

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:2](#); [9:23](#); [9:24](#); [12:8](#); [12:9](#); [12:10](#); [13:21](#); [13:22](#); [14:24](#); [19:18](#); [22:6](#); [24:17](#); [29:14](#); [29:34](#); [32:20](#); [32:24](#); [35:3](#); [40:38](#))

firstborn

Definition:

The term “firstborn” refers to an offspring of people or animals that is born first, before the other offspring are born.

- In the Bible, “firstborn” usually refers to the first male offspring that is born.
- In Bible times, the firstborn son was given a place of prominence and twice as much of his family inheritance as the other sons.
- Often it was the firstborn male of an animal that was sacrificed to God.
- This concept can also be used figuratively. For example, the nation of Israel is called God’s firstborn son because God gave it special privileges over other nations.
- Jesus, the Son of God is called God’s firstborn because of his importance and authority over everyone else.

Translation Suggestions:

- When “first-born” occurs in the text alone, it could also be translated as “firstborn male” or “firstborn son,” since that is what is implied. (See: [Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information](#))
- Other ways to translate this term could include “the son who was born first” or “the eldest son” or “the number one son.”
- When used figuratively to refer to Jesus, this could be translated with a word or phrase that means “the son who has authority over everything” or “the Son who is first in honor.”
- Caution: Make sure the translation of this term in reference to Jesus does not imply that he was created.

(See also: [inherit](#), [sacrifice](#), [son](#))

Bible References:

- Colossians 1:15
- Genesis 4:3-5
- Genesis 29:26-27
- Genesis 43:33
- Luke 2:6-7
- Revelation 1:5

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1060, H1062, H1067, H1069, G44160, G52070

(Go back to: [Exodus 4 General Notes](#); [4:22](#); [4:23](#); [6:14](#); [11:5](#); [12:12](#); [12:29](#); [13:2](#); [13:13](#); [13:15](#); [22:29](#); [34:20](#))

firstfruits

Definition:

The term “firstfruits” refers to a portion of the first crop of fruits and vegetables that was reaped during each harvest season.

- The Israelites offered these first fruits to God as a sacrificial offering.
- This term is also used figuratively in the Bible to refer to a firstborn son as being the first fruits of the family. That is, because he was the first son to be born into that family, he was the one who carried on the family name and honor.
- Because Jesus rose from the dead, he is called the “firstfruits” of all believers in him, believers who have died but who will some day come back to life.
- Believers in Jesus are also called the “firstfruits” of all creation, indicating the special privilege and position of those whom Jesus redeemed and called to be his people.

Translation Suggestions:

- The literal use of this term could be translated as “first portion (of crops)” or “first part of the harvest.”
- If possible, the figurative uses should be translated literally, to allow for different meanings in different contexts. This will also show the correlation between the literal meaning and the figurative uses.

(See also: [firstborn](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 31:4-5
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13
- Exodus 23:16-17
- James 1:18
- Jeremiah 2:3
- Psalms 105:36

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1061, H6529, H7225, G05360

(Go back to: [Exodus 23:16](#); [23:19](#); [34:22](#); [34:26](#))

flesh

Definition:

In the Bible, the term “flesh” literally refers to the soft tissue of the physical body of a human being or animal.

- The Bible also uses the term “flesh” in a figurative way to refer to all human beings or all living creatures.
- In the New Testament, the term “flesh” is used to refer to the sinful nature of human beings. This is often used in contrast to their spiritual nature.
- The expression “own flesh and blood” refers to someone who is biologically related to another person, such as a parent, sibling, child, or grandchild.
- The expression “flesh and blood” can also refer to a person’s ancestors or descendants.
- The expression “one flesh” refers to the physical uniting of a man and woman in marriage.

Translation Suggestions:

- In the context of an animal’s body, “flesh” could be translated as “body” or “skin” or “meat.”
- When it is used to refer generally to all living creatures, this term could be translated as “living beings” or “everything that is alive.”
- When referring in general to all people, this term could be translated as “people” or “human beings” or “everyone who lives.”
- The expression “flesh and blood” could also be translated as “relatives” or “family” or “kinfolk” or “family clan.” There may be contexts where it could be translated as “ancestors” or “descendants.”
- Some languages may have an expression that is similar in meaning to “flesh and blood.”
- The expression “become one flesh” could be translated as “unite sexually” or “become as one body” or “become like one person in body and spirit.” The translation of this expression should be checked to make sure it is acceptable in the project language and culture. (See: [euphemism](#)). It should also be understood that this is figurative, and does not mean that a man and a woman who “become one flesh” literally become one person.

Bible References:

- 1 John 2:16
- 2 John 1:7
- Ephesians 6:12
- Galatians 1:16
- Genesis 2:24
- John 1:14
- Matthew 16:17
- Romans 8:8

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0829, H1320, H1321, H2878, H3894, H4207, H7607, H7683, G29070, G45590, G45600, G45610

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:7](#); [12:8](#); [12:46](#); [16:3](#); [16:8](#); [16:12](#); [21:28](#); [22:31](#); [28:42](#); [29:14](#); [29:31](#))

flock, herd

Definition:

In the Bible, “flock” refers to a group of sheep or goats and “herd” refers to a group of cattle or pigs.

- Different languages may have different ways of naming groups of animals or birds.

Translation Suggestions

- Consider what terms are used in your language to refer to different groups of animals, and use the appropriate term for each kind of animal.
- If your language uses the same word to refer to both groups of sheep and cattle, then you may need to say “groups of sheep” where the Bible says only “flocks,” and “groups of cattle” where the Bible says only “herds.” Alternatively, if the Biblical context does not demand differentiation (if the text simply says “flocks and herds,” meaning all their domesticated animals) you may just use the one word once.

(See also: [goat](#), [cow](#), pig, [sheep](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 10:28-29
- 2 Chronicles 17:11
- Deuteronomy 14:22-23
- Luke 2:8-9
- Matthew 8:30
- Matthew 26:31

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0951, H1241, H2835, H4029, H4735, H4830, H5349, H5739, H6251, H6629, H7399, H7462, G00340, G41670, G41680

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:16](#); [2:17](#); [2:19](#); [3:1](#); [9:3](#); [10:9](#); [10:24](#); [12:32](#); [12:38](#); [34:3](#))

forgive, forgiven, forgiveness, pardon, pardoned

Definition:

To forgive someone means to not hold a grudge against that person even though they did something hurtful. "Forgiveness" is the act of forgiving someone.

- Forgiving someone often means not punishing that person for something he has done wrong.
- This term can be used figuratively to mean "cancel," as in the expression "forgive a debt."
- When people confess their sins, God forgives them based on Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross.
- Jesus taught his disciples to forgive others as he has forgiven them.

The term "pardon" means to forgive and not punish someone for his sin.

- This word has the same meaning as "forgive" but may also include the meaning of a formal decision to not punish someone who is guilty.
- In a court of law, a judge can pardon a person found guilty of a crime.
- Even though we are guilty of sin, Jesus Christ pardoned us from being punished in hell, based on his sacrificial death on the cross.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, "forgive" could be translated as "pardon" or "cancel" or "release" or "not hold against" (someone).
- The term "forgiveness" could be translated by a word or phrase that means "practice of not resenting" or "declaring (someone) as not guilty" or "the act of pardoning."
- If the language has a word for a formal decision to forgive, that word could be used to translate "pardon."

(See also: [guilt](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 50:17
- Numbers 14:17-19
- Deuteronomy 29:20-21
- Joshua 24:19-20
- 2 Kings 5:17-19
- Psalms 25:11
- Psalms 25:17-19
- Isaiah 55:6-7
- Isaiah 40:2
- Luke 5:21
- Acts 8:22
- Ephesians 4:31-32
- Colossians 3:12-14
- 1 John 2:12

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **7:10** But Esau had already **forgiven** Jacob, and they were happy to see each other again.
- **13:15** Then Moses climbed the mountain again and prayed that God would **forgive** the people. God listened to Moses and **forgave** them.
- **17:13** David repented of his sin and God **forgave** him.

- **21:5** In the New Covenant, God would write his law on the people's hearts, the people would know God personally, they would be his people, and God would **forgive** their sins.
- **29:1** One day Peter asked Jesus, "Master, how many times should I **forgive** my brother when he sins against me?"
- **29:8** I **forgave** your debt because you begged me.
- **38:5** Then Jesus took a cup and said, "Drink this. It is my blood of the New Covenant that is poured out for the **forgiveness** of sins."

Word Data:

- H5546, H5547, H3722, H5375, H5545, H5547, H7521, G85900, G86300, G54830

(Go back to: [Exodus 32:32](#); [34:9](#))

forsake, forsaken, leave

Definition:

The term “forsake” means to abandon someone or to give up something. Someone who has been “forsaken” has been deserted or abandoned by someone else.

- When people “forsake” God, they are being unfaithful to him by disobeying him.
- When God “forsakes” people, he has stopped helping them and allowed them to experience suffering in order to cause them to turn back to him.
- This term can also mean to forsake things, such as forsaking, or not following, God’s teachings.
- The term “forsaken” can be used in the past tense, as in “he has forsaken you” or as in referring to someone who has “been forsaken.”

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate this term could include “abandon” or “neglect” or “give up” or “go away from” or “leave behind,” depending on the context.
- To “forsake” God’s law could be translated “disobey God’s law.” This could also be translated as “abandon” or “give up on” or “stop obeying” his teachings or his laws.
- The phrase “be forsaken” can be translated as “be abandoned” or “be deserted.”
- It more clearer to use different words to translate this term, depending on whether the text describes forsaking a thing or a person.

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 6:11-13
- Daniel 11:29-30
- Genesis 24:27
- Joshua 24:16-18
- Matthew 27:45-47
- Proverbs 27:9-10
- Psalms 71:18

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0488, H2308, H5203, H5428, H5800, H5805, H7503, G06460, G06570, G08630, G14590, G26410

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:20](#))

found, founder, foundation

Definition:

The verb “found” means build, create, or lay a base for. The phrase “founded on” means supported by or based on. A “foundation” is the base of support on which something is built or created.

- The foundation of a house or building must be strong and dependable in order to support the entire structure.
- The term “foundation” can also refer to the beginning of something or to the time when something was first created.
- In a figurative sense, believers in Christ are compared to a building that is founded on the teachings of the apostles and prophets, with Christ himself being the cornerstone of the building.
- A “foundation stone” was a stone that was laid as part of the foundation. These stones were tested to make sure they were strong enough to support an entire building.

Translation Suggestions:

- The phrase “before the foundation of the world” could be translated as “before the creation of the world” or “before the time when the world first existed” or “before everything was first created.”
- The term “founded on” could be translated as “securely built on” or “firmly based on.”
- Depending on the context, “foundation” could be translated as “strong base” or “solid support” or “beginning” or “creation.”

(See also: [cornerstone](#), [create](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 6:37-38
- 2 Chronicles 3:1-3
- Ezekiel 13:13-14
- Luke 14:29
- Matthew 13:35
- Matthew 25:34

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0134, H0787, H2713, H3245, H3247, H3248, H4143, H4144, H4146, H4328, H4349, H4527, H8356, G23100, G23110, G26020

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:18](#))

fountain, source, spring

Definition:

The terms “fountain” and “spring” usually refer to a large amount of water that flows out naturally from the ground.

- These words are also used figuratively in the Bible to refer to blessings flowing from God or to refer to something that cleanses and purifies.
- In modern times, a fountain is often a manmade object that has water flowing out of it, such as a drinking fountain. Make sure that the translation of this term refers to a natural source of flowing water.
- Compare the translation of this term with how the term “flood” is translated.

(See also: flood)

Bible References:

- 2 Peter 2:17
- Genesis 7:11
- Genesis 8:2
- Genesis 24:13
- Genesis 24:42
- James 3:11

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0953, H1530, H1543, H3222, H4002, H4161, H4456, H4599, H4726, H5033, H5869, H5927, H6524, H6779, H8444, H8666, G02420, G40770

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:27](#))

frankincense

Definition:

Frankincense is a fragrant spice made from tree resin. It is used to make perfumes and incense.

- In Bible times, frankincense was an important spice used to prepare dead bodies for burial.
- This spice is also valuable for its healing and calming qualities.
- When learned men came from an eastern country to visit baby Jesus in Bethlehem, frankincense was one of the three gifts they brought him.

(See also: Bethlehem, learned men)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 9:28-29
- Exodus 30:34-36
- Matthew 2:11-12
- Numbers 5:15

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3828, G30300

(Go back to: [Exodus 30:34](#))

free, freed, freedom, freeman, freewill, liberty

Definition:

The terms "free" or "freedom" refer to not being in slavery, or any other kind of bondage. Another word for "freedom" is "liberty."

- The expression to "set someone free" or to "free someone" means to provide a way for someone to no longer be in slavery or captivity.
- In the Bible, these terms are often used figuratively to refer to how a believer in Jesus is no longer under the power of sin.
- Having "liberty" or "freedom" can also refer to no longer being required to obey the Law of Moses, but instead being free to live by the teachings and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "free" could be translated with a word or phrase that means "not bound" or "not enslaved" or "not in slavery" or "not in bondage."
- The term "freedom" or "liberty" could be translated with a word or phrase that means "the state of being free" or "the condition of not being a slave" or "not being bound."
- The expression to "set free" could be translated as to "cause to be free" or to "rescue from slavery" or to "release from bondage."
- A person who has been "set free" has been "released" or "taken out of" bondage or slavery.

(See also: [bind](#), [enslave](#), [servant](#))

Bible References:

- Galatians 4:26
- Galatians 5:1
- Isaiah 61:1
- Leviticus 25:10
- Romans 6:18

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1865, H2600, H2666, H2668, H2670, H3318, H4800, H5068, H5069, H5071, H5337, H5352, H5355, H5425, H5674, H5800, H6299, H6362, H7342, H7971, G04250, G05250, G05580, G06290, G06300, G08590, G13440, G14320, G16570, G16580, G16590, G18490, G30890, G39550, G45060, G54830

(Go back to: [Exodus 21:2](#); [21:5](#); [21:11](#); [21:26](#); [21:27](#))

freewill offering

Definition:

A freewill offering was a type of sacrifice to God that was not required by the Law of Moses. It was a person's own choice to give this offering.

- If the freewill offering was an animal to be sacrificed, the animal was permitted to have slight defects since it was a voluntary offering.
- The Israelites ate the sacrificed animal as part of a celebration feast.
- When a freewill offering could be given, this was a cause of rejoicing for Israel since it showed that the harvest had been good so that the people had plenty of food.
- The book of Ezra describes a different type of freewill offering that was brought for rebuilding the temple. This offering consisted of gold and silver money, as well as bowls and other objects made of gold and silver.

(See also: [burnt offering](#), Ezra, [feast](#), [grain offering](#), guilt offering, [law](#), sin offering)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 29:6
- 2 Chronicles 35:7-9
- Deuteronomy 12:17
- Exodus 36:2-4
- Leviticus 7:15-16

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5068, H5071

(Go back to: [Exodus 35:29](#); [36:3](#))

fruit, fruitful, unfruitful

Definition:

The term “fruit” literally refers to the part of a plant that can be eaten. Something that is “fruitful” has a lot of fruit. These terms are also used figuratively in the Bible.

- The Bible often uses “fruit” to refer to a person’s actions. Just as fruit on a tree shows what kind of tree it is, in the same way a person’s words and actions reveal what his character is like.
- A person can produce good or bad spiritual fruit, but the term “fruitful” always has the positive meaning of producing much good fruit.
- The term “fruitful” is also used figuratively to mean “prosperous.” This often refers to having many children and descendants, as well as having plenty of food and other wealth.
- In general, the expression “fruit of” refers to anything that comes from or that is produced by something else. For example, the “fruit of wisdom” refers to the good things that come from being wise.
- The expression “fruit of the land” refers generally to everything that the land produces for people to eat. This includes not only fruits such as grapes or dates, but also vegetables, nuts, and grains.
- The figurative expression “fruit of the Spirit” refers to godly qualities that the Holy Spirit produces in the lives of people who obey him.
- The expression “fruit of the womb” refers to “what the womb produces”—that is children.

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate this term using the general word for “fruit” that is commonly used in the project language to refer to the edible fruit of a fruit tree. In many languages it may be more natural to use the plural “fruits” whenever it refers to more than one fruit.
- Depending on the context, the term “fruitful” could be translated as “producing much spiritual fruit” or “having many children” or “prosperous.”
- The expression “fruit of the land” could also be translated as “food that the land produces” or “food crops that are growing in that region.”
- When God created animals and people, he commanded them to “be fruitful and multiply,” which refers to having many offspring. This could also be translated as “have many offspring” or “have many children and descendants” or “have many children so that you will have many descendants.”
- The expression “fruit of the womb” could be translated as “what the womb produces” or “children a woman gives birth to” or just “children.” When Elizabeth says to Mary “blessed is the fruit of your womb,” she means “blessed is the child you will give birth to.” The project language may also have a different expression for this.
- Another expression “fruit of the vine,” could be translated as “vine fruit” or “grapes.”
- Depending on the context, the expression “will be more fruitful” could also be translated as “will produce more fruit” or “will have more children” or “will be prosperous.”
- The apostle Paul’s expression “fruitful labor” could be translated as “work that brings very good results” or “efforts that result in many people believing in Jesus.”
- The “fruit of the Spirit” could also be translated as “works that the Holy Spirit produces” or “words and actions that show that the Holy Spirit is working in someone.”

(See also: [descendant](#), grain, grape, Holy Spirit, vine, [womb](#))

Bible References:

- Galatians 5:23
- Genesis 1:11
- Luke 8:15
- Matthew 3:8

- Matthew 7:17

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0004, H1061, H1063, H1069, H2233, H2981, H3581, H3759, H3899, H3978, H4022, H5108, H6509, H6529, H7019, H8393, H8570, G10810, G25900, G25920, G25930, G37030, G50520, G53520

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:7](#); [10:15](#); [23:30](#))

fulfill, fulfilled, carried out

Definition:

The term “fulfill” means to complete or accomplish something that was expected.

- When a prophecy is fulfilled, it means that God causes to happen what was predicted in the prophecy.
- If a person fulfills a promise or a vow, it means that he does what he has promised to do.
- To fulfill a responsibility means to do the task that was assigned or required.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, “fulfill” could be translated as “accomplish” or “complete” or “cause to happen” or “obey” or “perform.”
- The phrase “has been fulfilled” could also be translated as “has come true” or “has happened” or “has taken place.”
- Ways to translate “fulfill,” as in “fulfill your ministry,” could include “complete” or “perform” or “practice” or “serve other people as God has called you to do.”

(See also: [prophet](#), Christ, minister, [call](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 2:27
- Acts 3:17-18
- Leviticus 22:17-19
- Luke 4:21
- Matthew 1:22-23
- Matthew 5:17
- Psalms 116:12-15

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **24:4** John **fulfilled** what the prophets said, “See I send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way.”
- **40:3** The soldiers gambled for Jesus’ clothing. When they did this, they **fulfilled** a prophecy that said, “They divided my garments among them, and gambled for my clothing.”
- **42:7** Jesus said, “I told you that everything written about me in God’s word must be **fulfilled**.”
- **43:5** “This **fulfills** the prophecy made by the prophet Joel in which God said, ‘In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit.’”
- **43:7** “This **fulfills** the prophecy which says, ‘You will not let your Holy One rot in the grave.’”
- **44:5** “Although you did not understand what you were doing, God used your actions to **fulfill** the prophecies that the Messiah would suffer and die.”

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1214, H5487, G10960, G41380

(Go back to: [Exodus 1 General Notes](#))

furnace

Facts:

A furnace was a very large oven used for heating objects to a high temperature.

- In ancient times, most furnaces were used for melting metals to make objects such as cooking pots, jewelry, weapons, and idols.
- Furnaces were also used in the making of clay pottery.
- Sometimes a furnace is referred to figuratively to explain that something is very hot.

(See also: false god, [image](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 8:51
- Genesis 19:28
- Proverbs 17:3
- Psalms 21:9
- Revelation 9:2

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0861, H3536, H3564, H5948, H8574, G25750

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:8](#); [9:10](#); [19:18](#))

Gad

Facts:

Gad was Jacob's seventh son. He was Zilpah's first son. His descendants became one of the tribes of Israel.

- The tribe descended from him was known as the "tribe of Gad" or "Gad" or "Gad."
- The name Gad is similar to the Hebrew word for "good fortune."
- The tribe of Gad settled on the eastern side of the Jordan River between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. This was to the north of Reuben and south of half of the tribe of Manasseh. When used as the name of a region of land, the term "Gad" refers to the land given to the tribe of Gad.
- Another man in the Bible named Gad was a prophet who confronted King David for his sin of taking a census of the Israelite people.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, [Jacob](#), Zilpah)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 5:18
- Exodus 1:1-5
- Genesis 30:11
- Joshua 1:12
- Joshua 21:38

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1410, H1425, G10450

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:4](#))

gate, gate bars, gatekeeper, gateposts, gateway

Definition:

The term "gate" refers to an access point in a fence, wall, or other kind of barrier that surrounds a house, property, city, etc.

- A city gate could be opened to allow people, animals, and cargo to travel in and out of the city.
- To protect the city, its walls and gates were thick and strong. Gates were closed and locked with a metal or wooden bar to prevent enemy soldiers from entering the city.
- A "bar" for a gate refers to a wood or metal bar that can be moved into place so that the doors of the gate cannot be opened from the outside.
- In Bible times, a city gate was often the social center for that town or city. It was a place where news of current events was exchanged between people, where business transactions occurred, and where civil judgments were made.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, other ways to translate "gate" could be "door" or "wall opening" or "barrier" or "entranceway."
- The phrase "bars of the gate" could be translated as "gate bolts" or "wooden beams to lock the gate" or "metal locking rods of the gate."

Bible References:

- Acts 9:24
- Acts 10:18
- Deuteronomy 21:18-19
- Genesis 19:1
- Genesis 24:60
- Matthew 7:13

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1817, H5592, H6607, H8179, G23740, G44390, G44400

(Go back to: [Exodus 20:10](#); [27:16](#); [32:26](#); [32:27](#); [35:17](#); [38:15](#); [38:18](#); [38:31](#); [39:40](#); [40:8](#); [40:33](#))

generation

Definition:

The term “generation” generally refers to a group of people who are all alive at the same time. They are all born in the same general time period and are therefore about the same age.

- A generation can also refer to a span of time. In Bible times, a generation was usually considered to be about 40 years.
- Parents and their children are from two different generations.
- In the Bible, the term “generation” is also used figuratively to refer generally to people who share common characteristics.

Translation Suggestions

- The phrase “this generation” or “people of this generation” could be translated as “the people living now” or “you people.”
- “This wicked generation” could also be translated as “these wicked people living now.”
- The expression “from generation to generation” or “from one generation to the next” could be translated as “people living now, as well as their children and grandchildren” or “people in every time period” or “people in this time period and future time periods” or “all people and their descendants.”
- “A generation to come will serve him; they will tell the next generation about Yahweh” could also be translated as “Many people in the future will serve Yahweh and will tell their children and grandchildren about him.”

(See also: [descendant](#), [evil](#), [ancestor](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 15:19-21
- Exodus 3:13-15
- Genesis 15:16
- Genesis 17:7
- Mark 8:12
- Matthew 11:16
- Matthew 23:34-36
- Matthew 24:34

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1755, H1859, H8435, G10740

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:6](#); [3:15](#); [12:14](#); [12:17](#); [12:42](#); [17:16](#); [27:21](#); [29:42](#); [30:8](#); [30:10](#); [30:21](#); [30:31](#); [31:13](#); [31:16](#); [40:15](#))

gird, girded, wrapped around, tied up, belt, tuck in belt, put belt around

Definition:

The term “gird” means to fasten something around something else. It often refers to using a belt or sash around the waist to keep a robe or tunic in place.

- The common biblical phrase, “gird up the loins” refers to tucking the bottom of a garment into a belt to allow a person to move more freely, usually to do work.
- This phrase can also mean “get ready to work” or to be prepared to do something difficult.
- The expression “gird up the loins” could be translated using an expression in the target language that has the same meaning. Or it could be translated figuratively as “prepare yourself for action” or “get yourself ready.”
- The term “girded with” could be translated as “encircled by” or “wrapped with” or “belted with.”

(See also: [loins](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Peter 1:13
- Job 38:3

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0640, H0247, H2290, H2296, H8151, G03280, G12410, G40240

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:11](#))

glory, glorious, glorify

Definition:

The term “glory” is a general term for a family of concepts including value, worth, importance, honor, splendor, or majesty. The term “glorify” means to ascribe glory to someone or something, or to show or tell how glorious something or someone is.

- In the Bible, the term “glory” is especially used to describe God, who is more valuable, more worthy, more important, more honorable, more splendid, and more majestic than anyone or anything in the universe. Everything about his character reveals his glory.
- People can glorify God by telling about the wonderful things he has done. They can also glorify God by living in accordance with God’s character, because doing so shows to others his value, worth, importance, honor, splendor, and majesty.
- The expression to “glory in” means to boast about or take pride in something.

Old Testament

- The specific phrase “the glory of Yahweh” in the Old Testament usually refers to some perceptible manifestation of Yahweh’s presence in a particular location.

New Testament

- God the Father will glorify God the Son by revealing to all people the full extent of how glorious Jesus is.
- Everyone who believes in Christ will be glorified with him. This use of the term “glorify” carries a unique meaning. It means that when people who believe in Christ are raised to life, they will be changed physically to be like Jesus as he appeared after his resurrection.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, different ways to translate “glory” could include “splendor” or “majesty” or “awesome greatness” or “extreme value.”
- The term “glorious” could be translated as “full of glory” or “extremely valuable” or “brightly shining” or “awesomely majestic.”
- The expression “give glory to God” could be translated as “honor God’s greatness” or “praise God because of his splendor” or “tell others how great God is.”
- The expression “glory in” could also be translated as “praise” or “take pride in” or “boast about” or “take pleasure in.”
- “Glorify” could also be translated as “give glory to” or “bring glory to” or “cause to appear great.”
- The phrase “glorify God” could also be translated as “praise God” or “talk about God’s greatness” or “show how great God is” or “honor God (by obeying him).”
- The term “be glorified” could also be translated as “be shown to be very great” or “be praised” or “be exalted.”

(See also: [honor](#), [majesty](#), [exalt](#), [obey](#), [praise](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 24:17
- Numbers 14:9-10
- Isaiah 35:2

- Luke 18:43
- Luke 2:9
- John 12:28
- Acts 3:13-14
- Acts 7:1-3
- Romans 8:17
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
- Philippians 2:14-16
- Philippians 4:19
- Colossians 3:1-4
- 1 Thessalonians 2:5
- James 2:1-4
- 1 Peter 4:15-16
- Revelation 15:4

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **23:7** Suddenly, the skies were filled with angels praising God, saying, “**Glory** to God in heaven and peace on earth to the people he favors!”
- **25:6** Then Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and all their **glory** and said, “I will give you all this if you bow down and worship me.”
- **37:1** When Jesus heard this news, he said, “This sickness will not end in death, but it is for the **glory** of God.”
- **37:8** Jesus responded, “Did I not tell you that you would see God’s **glory** if you believe in me?”

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0117, H0142, H0155, H0215, H1342, H1921, H1926, H1935, H1984, H3367, H3513, H3519, H3520, H6286, H6643, H7623, H8597, G13910, G13920, G17400, G17410, G27440, G48880

(Go back to: [Exodus 8:9](#); [14:4](#); [14:17](#); [14:18](#); [16:7](#); [16:10](#); [24:16](#); [24:17](#); [28:2](#); [28:40](#); [29:43](#); [33:18](#); [33:22](#); [Notes](#); [40:34](#); [40:35](#))

goat, goatskins, scapegoat, kids

Definition:

A goat is a medium-sized, four-legged animal which is similar to a sheep and is raised primarily for its milk and meat. A baby goat is called a "kid."

- Like sheep, goats were important animals of sacrifice, especially at Passover.
- Although goats and sheep can be very similar, these are some ways that they are different:
 - Goats have coarse hair; sheep have wool.
 - The tail of a goat stands up; the tail of a sheep hangs down.
 - Sheep usually like to stay with their herd, but goats are more independent and tend to wander away from their herd.
- In Bible times, goats were often the main source of milk in Israel.
- Goat skins were used for tent coverings and to make bags for holding wine.
- In both the Old and New Testaments, the goat was used as a symbol for unrighteous people, perhaps because of its tendency to wander away from the one taking care of it.
- The Israelites also used goats as symbolic sin bearers. When one goat was sacrificed, the priest would lay his hands on a second, live goat, and send it into the desert as a symbol that the animal was bearing the people's sins.

(See also: [flock](#), [sacrifice](#), [sheep](#), [righteous](#), [wine](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 12:3-4
- Genesis 30:32
- Genesis 31:10
- Genesis 37:31
- Leviticus 3:12-14
- Matthew 25:33

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0689, H1423, H1429, H3277, H3629, H5795, H5796, H6260, H6629, H6842, H7716, H8163, H8166, H8495, G01220, G20550, G20560, G51310

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:5](#); [23:19](#); [34:26](#))

God

Definition:

In the Bible, the term “God” refers to the eternal being who created the universe out of nothing. God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God’s personal name is “Yahweh.”

- God has always existed; he existed before anything else existed, and he will continue to exist forever.
- He is the only true God and has authority over everything in the universe.
- God is perfectly righteous, infinitely wise, holy, sinless, just, merciful, and loving.
- He is a covenant-keeping God, who always fulfills his promises.
- People were created to worship God and he is the only one they should worship.
- God revealed his name as “Yahweh,” which means “he is” or “I am” or “the One who (always) exists.”
- The Bible also teaches about false “gods,” which are nonliving idols that people wrongly worship.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate “God” could include “Deity” or “Creator” or “Supreme Being” or “Supreme Creator” or “Infinite Sovereign Lord” or “Eternal Supreme Being.”
- Consider how God is referred to in a local or national language. There may also already be a word for “God” in the language being translated. If so, it is important to make sure that this word fits the characteristics of the one true God as described above.
- Many languages capitalize the first letter of the word for the one true God, to distinguish it from the word for a false god. Another way to make this distinction would be to use different terms for “God” and “god.”
NOTE: In the biblical text, when a person who does not worship Yahweh speaks about Yahweh and uses the word “god,” it is acceptable to render the term without a capital letter in reference to Yahweh (see Jonah 1:6, 3:9).
- The phrase “I will be their God and they will be my people” could also be translated as “I, God, will rule over these people and they will worship me.”

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [create](#), false god, God the Father, Holy Spirit, false god, Son of God, [Yahweh](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 1:7
- 1 Samuel 10:7-8
- 1 Timothy 4:10
- Colossians 1:16
- Deuteronomy 29:14-16
- Ezra 3:1-2
- Genesis 1:2
- Hosea 4:11-12
- Isaiah 36:6-7
- James 2:20
- Jeremiah 5:5
- John 1:3
- Joshua 3:9-11
- Lamentations 3:43
- Micah 4:5
- Philippians 2:6
- Proverbs 24:12

- Psalms 47:9

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **1:1 God** created the universe and everything in it in six days.
- **1:15 God** made man and woman in his own image.
- **5:3** "I am **God** Almighty. I will make a covenant with you."
- **9:14 God** said, "I AM WHO I AM. Tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you.' Also tell them, 'I am Yahweh, the **God** of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is my name forever.'"
- **10:2** Through these plagues, **God** showed Pharaoh that he is more powerful than Pharaoh and all of Egypt's gods.
- **16:1** The Israelites began to worship the Canaanite gods instead of Yahweh, the true **God**.
- **22:7** "You, my son, will be called the prophet of the **Most High God** who will prepare the people to receive the Messiah!"
- **24:9** There is only one **God**. But John heard **God** the Father speak, and saw Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit when he baptized Jesus.
- **25:7** "Worship only the Lord your **God** and only serve him."
- **28:1** "There is only one who is good, and that is **God**."
- **49:9** But **God** loved everyone in the world so much that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in Jesus will not be punished for his sins, but will live with **God** forever.
- **50:16** But some day **God** will create a new heaven and a new earth that will be perfect.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0136, H0305, H0410, H0426, H0430, H0433, H2486, H2623, H3068, H3069, H3863, H4136, H6697, G01120, G05160, G09320, G09350, G10960, G11400, G20980, G21240, G21280, G21500, G21520, G21530, G22990, G23040, G23050, G23120, G23130, G23140, G23150, G23160, G23170, G23180, G23190, G23200, G33610, G37850, G41510, G52070, G53770, G54630, G55370, G55380

(Go back to: Exodus 1:17; 1:20; 1:21; 2:23; 2:24; 2:25; 3:1; 3:4; 3:6; 3:11; 3:12; 3:13; 3:14; 3:15; 3:16; 3:18; 4:5; 4:16; 4:20; 4:27; 5:1; 5:3; 5:8; 6:2; 6:3; 6:7; 7:1; 7:16; 8:10; 8:19; 8:25; 8:26; 8:27; 8:28; 9:1; 9:13; 9:28; 9:30; 10:3; 10:7; 10:8; 10:16; 10:17; 10:25; 10:26; 12:12; 13:17; 13:18; 13:19; 14:19; 15:2; 15:26; 16:12; 17:9; 18:1; 18:4; 18:5; 18:11; 18:12; 18:15; 18:16; 18:19; 18:21; 18:23; 19:3; 19:17; 19:19; 20:1; 20:2; 20:3; 20:5; 20:7; 20:10; 20:12; 20:19; 20:20; 20:21; 20:23; 21:6; 21:13; 22:8; 22:9; 22:20; 22:28; 23:13; 23:19; 23:24; 23:25; 23:32; 23:33; 24:10; 24:11; 29:45; 29:46; 31:3; 31:18; 32:1; 32:4; 32:8; 32:11; 32:16; 32:23; 32:27; 32:31; 34:6; 34:14; 34:15; 34:16; 34:17; 34:23; 34:24; 34:26; 35:31)

godly, godliness, ungodly, godless, ungodliness, godlessness

Definition:

The term “godly” is used to describe a person who acts in a way that honors God and shows what God is like. “Godliness” is the character quality of honoring God by doing his will.

- A person who has godly character will show the fruits of the Holy Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self control.
- The quality of godliness shows that a person has the Holy Spirit and is obeying him.

The terms “ungodly” and “godless” describe people who are in rebellion against God. Living in an evil way, without thought of God, is called “ungodliness” or “godlessness.”

- The meanings of these words are very similar. However, “godless” and “godlessness” may describe a more extreme condition in which people or nations do not even acknowledge God or his right to rule them.
- God pronounces judgment and wrath on ungodly people, on everyone who rejects him and his ways.

Translation Suggestions:

- The phrase “the godly” could be translated as “godly people” or “people who obey God.” (See: [nominaladj](#))
- The adjective “godly” could be translated as “obedient to God” or “righteous” or “pleasing to God.”
- The phrase “in a godly manner” could be translated as “in a way that obeys God” or “with actions and words that please God.”
- Ways to translate “godliness” could include “acting in a way that pleases God” or “obeying God” or “living in a righteous manner.”
- Depending on the context, the term “ungodly” could be translated as “displeasing to God” or “immoral” or “disobeying God.”
- The terms “godless” and “godlessness” literally mean that the people are “without God” or “having no thought of God” or “acting in a way that does not acknowledge God.”
- Other ways to translate “ungodliness” or “godlessness” could be “wickedness” or “evil” or “rebellion against God”.

(See also [evil](#), [honor](#), [obey](#), [righteous](#), [righteous](#))

Bible References:

- Job 27:10
- Proverbs 11:9
- Acts 3:12
- 1 Timothy 1:9-11
- 1 Timothy 4:7
- 2 Timothy 3:12
- Hebrews 12:14-17
- Hebrews 11:7
- 1 Peter 4:18
- Jude 1:16

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0430, H1100, H2623, H5760, H7563, G05160, G07630, G07640, G07650, G21240, G21500, G21520, G21530, G23160, G23170

(**Go back to:** [Exodus 18 General Notes](#))

gold, golden

Definition:

Gold is a yellow, high quality metal that was used for making jewelry and religious objects. It was the most valuable metal in ancient times.

- In Bible times, many different kinds of objects were made out of solid gold or were covered with a thin layer of gold.
- These objects included earrings and other jewelry, and idols, altars, and other objects used in the tabernacle or temple, such as the ark of the covenant.
- In Old Testament times, gold was used as a means of exchange in buying and selling. It was weighed on a scale to determine its value.
- Later on, gold and other metals such as silver were used to make coins to use in buying and selling
- When referring to something that is not solid gold, but only has a thin covering of gold, the term “golden” or “gold-covered” or “gold-overlaid” could also be used.
- Sometimes an object is described as “gold-colored,” which means it has the yellow color of gold, but may not actually be made of gold.

(See also: [altar](#), [ark of the covenant](#), false god, [silver](#), [tabernacle](#), temple)

Bible References:

- 1 Peter 1:7
- 1 Timothy 2:8-10
- 2 Chronicles 1:15
- Acts 3:6
- Daniel 2:32

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1220, H1722, H2091, H2742, H3800, H5458, H6884, H6885, G55520, G55530, G55540, G55570

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:22](#); [11:2](#); [12:35](#); [20:23](#); [25:3](#); [25:11](#); [25:12](#); [25:13](#); [25:17](#); [25:18](#); [25:24](#); [25:25](#); [25:26](#); [25:28](#); [25:29](#); [25:31](#); [25:36](#); [25:38](#); [25:39](#); [26:6](#); [26:29](#); [26:32](#); [26:37](#); [28:5](#); [28:6](#); [28:8](#); [28:11](#); [28:13](#); [28:14](#); [28:15](#); [28:20](#); [28:22](#); [28:23](#); [28:24](#); [28:26](#); [28:27](#); [28:33](#); [28:34](#); [28:36](#); [30:3](#); [30:4](#); [30:5](#); [31:4](#); [32:2](#); [32:3](#); [32:24](#); [32:31](#); [35:5](#); [35:22](#); [35:32](#); [36:13](#); [36:34](#); [36:36](#); [36:38](#); [37:2](#); [37:3](#); [37:4](#); [37:6](#); [37:7](#); [37:11](#); [37:12](#); [37:13](#); [37:15](#); [37:16](#); [37:17](#); [37:22](#); [37:23](#); [37:24](#); [37:26](#); [37:27](#); [37:28](#); [38:24](#); [39:2](#); [39:3](#); [39:5](#); [39:6](#); [39:8](#); [39:13](#); [39:15](#); [39:16](#); [39:17](#); [39:19](#); [39:20](#); [39:25](#); [39:30](#); [39:38](#); [40:5](#); [40:26](#))

good, right, pleasant, better, best

Definition:

The term "good" generally refers to a positive evaluation of the quality of something or someone, often in a moral or emotional sense. However, the term conveys various nuances throughout the Bible depending on the context.

- Something that is "good" could be emotionally pleasant, morally right, excellent, helpful, suitable, or profitable.
- In the Bible, the general meaning of "good" is often contrasted with "evil."

Translation Suggestions:

- The general term for "good" in the target language should be used wherever this general meaning is accurate and natural, especially in contexts where it is contrasted to evil.
- Depending on the context, other ways to translate this term could include "kind" or "excellent" or "pleasing to God" or "righteous" or "morally upright" or "profitable."
- "Good land" could be translated as "fertile land" or "productive land"; a "good crop" could be translated as a "plentiful harvest" or "large amount of crops."
- The phrase "do good to" means to do something that benefits others and could be translated as "be kind to" or "help" or "benefit" someone or "cause someone to prosper."
- To "do good on the Sabbath" means to "do things that help others on the Sabbath."
- Depending on the context, ways to translate the term "goodness" could include "blessing" or "kindness" or "moral perfection" or "righteousness" or "purity."

(See also: [righteous](#), prosper, [evil](#))

Bible References:

- Galatians 5:22-24
- Genesis 1:12
- Genesis 2:9
- Genesis 2:17
- James 3:13
- Romans 2:4

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **1:4** God saw that what he had created was **good**.
- **1:11** God planted the tree of the knowledge of **good** and evil.
- **1:12** Then God said, "It is not **good** for man to be alone."
- **2:4** "God just knows that as soon as you eat it, you will be like God and will understand **good** and evil like he does."
- **8:12** "You tried to do evil when you sold me as a slave, but God used the evil for **good!**"
- **14:15** Joshua was a **good** leader because he trusted and obeyed God.
- **18:13** Some of these kings were **good** men who ruled justly and worshiped God.
- **28:1** "**Good** teacher, what must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me '**good**?' There is only one who is **good**, and that is God."

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0117, H0145, H0155, H0202, H0239, H0410, H1580, H1926, H1935, H2532, H2617, H2623, H2869, H2895, H2896, H2898, H3190, H3191, H3276, H3474, H3788, H3966, H4261, H4399, H5232, H5750, H6287, H6643, H6743, H7075, H7368, H7399, H7443, H7999, H8231, H8232, H8233, H8389, H8458, G00140, G00150, G00180, G00190, G05150, G07440, G08650, G09790, G13800, G20950, G20970, G21060, G21070, G21080, G21090, G21140, G21150, G21330, G21400, G21620, G21630, G21740, G22930, G25650, G25670, G25700, G25730, G28870, G29860, G31400, G36170, G37760, G41470, G46320, G46740, G48510, G52230, G52240, G53580, G55420, G55430, G55440

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:20](#); [2:2](#); [3:8](#); [14:12](#); [18:9](#); [18:17](#); [33:19](#))

Goshen

Definition:

Goshen was the name of a fertile region of land located along the Nile River in the northern part of Egypt.

- When Joseph was a ruler in Egypt, his father and brothers and their families came to live in Goshen to escape a famine in Canaan.
- They and their descendants lived well in Goshen for over 400 years, but then they were forced into slavery by the Egyptian pharaoh.
- Finally God sent Moses to help the people of Israel leave the land of Goshen and escape this slavery.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Egypt](#), [famine](#), [Moses](#), [Nile River](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 8:22-24
- Genesis 45:11
- Genesis 47:2
- Genesis 50:7-9
- Joshua 10:40-41

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1657

(Go back to: [Exodus 8:22](#); [9:26](#))

grace, gracious

Definition:

The word “grace” refers to help or blessing that is given to someone who has not earned it. The term “gracious” describes someone who shows grace to others.

- God’s grace toward sinful human beings is a gift that is freely given.
- The concept of grace also refers to being kind and forgiving to someone who has done wrong or hurtful things.
- The expression to “find grace” is an expression that means to receive help and mercy from God. Often it includes the meaning that God is pleased with someone and helps him.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways that “grace” could be translated include “divine kindness” or “God’s favor” or “God’s kindness and forgiveness for sinners” or “merciful kindness.”
- The term “gracious” could be translated as “full of grace” or “kind” or “merciful” or “mercifully kind.”
- The expression “he found grace in the eyes of God” could be translated as “he received mercy from God” or “God mercifully helped him” or “God showed his favor to him” or “God was pleased with him and helped him.”

Bible References:

- Acts 4:33
- Acts 6:8
- Acts 14:4
- Colossians 4:6
- Colossians 4:18
- Genesis 43:28-29
- James 4:7
- John 1:16
- Philippians 4:21-23
- Revelation 22:20-21

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2580, H2587, H2589, H2603, H8467, G21430, G54850, G55430

(Go back to: [Exodus 22:27](#); [34:6](#))

grain offering

Definition:

A grain offering was a gift of wheat or barley flour offered to God, often after a burnt offering.

- The grain used for the grain offering had to be finely ground up. Sometimes it was cooked before being offered, but other times it was left uncooked.
- Oil and salt were added to the grain flour, but no yeast or honey was permitted.
- Part of the grain offering was burned up and part of it was eaten by the priests.

(See also: [burnt offering](#), guilt offering, [sacrifice](#), sin offering)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 23:27-29
- Exodus 29:41-42
- Judges 13:19
- Leviticus 2:2

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4503, H8641

(Go back to: [Exodus 29:41](#); [30:9](#); [40:29](#))

grave, gravediggers, tomb, burial place

Definition:

The terms “tomb” and “grave” refer to a place where people put the body of a person who has died. A “burial place” is a more general term that also refers to this.

- The Jews sometimes used natural caves as tombs, and sometimes they dug caves into rock in the side of a hill.
- In New Testament times, it was common to roll a large, heavy stone in front of the opening of a tomb in order to close it.
- If the target language the word for a tomb can only refer to a hole in which the body is placed below the ground, other ways to translate this could include “cave” or “hole in the side of a hill.”
- The phrase “the grave” is often used generally and figuratively to refer to the condition of being dead or a place where the souls of dead people are.

(See also: bury, [death](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 2:29-31
- Genesis 23:6
- Genesis 50:5
- John 19:41
- Luke 23:53
- Mark 5:1-2
- Matthew 27:53
- Romans 3:13

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **32:4** The man lived among the **tombs** in the area.
- **37:6** Jesus asked them, “Where have you put Lazarus?” They told him, “In the **tomb**. Come and see.”
- **37:7** The **tomb** was a cave with a stone rolled in front of its opening.
- **40:9** Then Joseph and Nicodemus, two Jewish leaders who believed Jesus was the Messiah, asked Pilate for Jesus’ body. They wrapped his body in cloth and placed it in a **tomb** cut out of rock. Then they rolled a large stone in front the **tomb** to block the opening.
- **41:4** He (the angel) rolled away the stone that was covering the entrance to the **tomb** and sat on it. The soldiers guarding the **tomb** were terrified and fell to the ground like dead men.
- **41:5** When the women arrived at the **tomb**, the angel told them, “Do not be afraid. Jesus is not here. He has risen from the dead, just like he said he would! Look in the **tomb** and see.” The women looked into the **tomb** and saw where Jesus’ body had been laid. His body was not there!

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1430, H6900, H6913, H7585, H7845, G34180, G34190, G50280

(Go back to: [Exodus 14:11](#))

groan

Definition:

The term to “groan” refers to the uttering of a deep, low sound that is caused by physical or emotional distress. It could also be the sound someone makes without any words.

- A person can groan because of feeling grief.
- Groaning can be caused by feeling a terrible, oppressive burden.
- Other ways to translate “groan” could include, “give a low cry of pain” or “grieve deeply.”
- As a noun, this could be translated as “a low cry of distress” or “a deep murmur of pain.”

(See also: [cry](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Corinthians 5:2
- Hebrews 13:17
- Job 23:2
- Psalms 32:3-4
- Psalms 102:5-6

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0584, H0585, H0602, H0603, H1901, H1993, H5008, H5009, H5098, H5594, H7581, G47260, G47270, G49590

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:24; 6:5](#))

guilt, guilty

Definition:

The term “guilt” refers to the fact of having sinned or committed a crime.

- To “be guilty” means to have done something morally wrong, that is, to have disobeyed God.
- The opposite of “guilty” is “innocent.”

Translation Suggestions:

- Some languages might translate “guilt” as “the weight of sin” or “the counting of sins.”
- Ways to translate to “be guilty” could include a word or phrase that means, to “be at fault” or “having done something morally wrong” or “having committed a sin.”

(See also: [innocent](#), [iniquity](#), [punish](#), [sin](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 28:36-38
- Isaiah 6:7
- James 2:10-11
- John 19:4
- Jonah 1:14

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **39:2** They brought many witnesses who lied about him (Jesus). However, their statements did not agree with each other, so the Jewish leaders could not prove he was **guilty** of anything.
- **39:11** After speaking with Jesus, Pilate went out to the crowd and said, “I find no **guilt** in this man.” But the Jewish leaders and the crowd shouted, “Crucify him!” Pilate replied, “He is not **guilty**.” But they shouted even louder. Then Pilate said a third time, “He is not **guilty**!”
- **40:4** Jesus was crucified between two robbers. One of them mocked Jesus, but the other said, “Don’t you fear God? We are **guilty**, but this man is innocent.”
- **49:10** Because of your sin, you are **guilty** and deserve to die.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0816, H0817, H0818, H5352, H5355, H7563, G03380, G17770, G37840, G52670

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:13](#); [9:27](#); [22:9](#))

had relations with, lovemaking, sleep with, lie with

Definition:

In the Bible, these terms are euphemisms that refer to having sexual intercourse. (See: [Euphemism](#))

- The expression “sleep with” someone commonly refers to having sexual relations with that person. The past tense is “slept with.”
- In the Old Testament book “Song of Songs,” the ULT uses the term “lovemaking” to translate the word “love,” which in that context refers to sexual relations. This term is related to the expression “make love to.”

Translation Suggestions:

- Some languages may use different expressions for these terms in different contexts, depending on whether whether those involved are a married couple or whether they have some other relationship. It is important to make sure that the translation of this term has the correct meaning in each context.
- Depending on the context, expressions like these could be used to translate “sleep with”: “lie with” or “make love to” or “be intimate with.”
- Other ways to translate “have relations with” could include “have sexual relations with” or “have marital relations with.”
- The term “lovemaking” could also be translated as “loving” or “intimacy.” Or there may be an expression that is a natural way to translate this in the project language.
- It is important to check that the terms used to translate this concept are acceptable to the people who will be using the Bible translation.

(See also: sexual immorality)

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 5:1-2
- 1 Samuel 1:19
- Deuteronomy 21:13
- Genesis 19:5
- Matthew 1:25

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0160, H0935, H1540, H2181, H2233, H3045, H3212, H6172, H7250, H7901, H7903, G10970

(Go back to: [Exodus 22:16](#); [22:19](#))

hail, hailstone, hailstorm

Facts:

This term usually refers to lumps of frozen water that fall from the sky. Although spelled the same way in English, a different word, "hail" is used in greeting someone and can mean, "hello" or "greetings to you."

- Hail that comes down from the sky is in the form of balls or chunks of ice called "hailstones."
- Usually hailstones are small (only a few centimeters wide), but sometimes there are hailstones that are as big as 20 centimeters wide and that weigh over a kilogram.
- The book of Revelation in the New Testament describes enormous hailstones weighing 50 kilograms that God will cause to fall on earth when he judges people for their wickedness in the end times.
- The word "hail" that is a formal greeting in older English literally means "rejoice" and could be translated as "Greetings!" or "Hello!"

(Translation suggestions: [Translate Names](#))

Bible References:

- Matthew 27:29
- Matthew 28:8-10
- Psalms 78:48
- Psalms 148:8
- Revelation 8:7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0068, H0417, H1258, H1259, G54630, G54640

(**Go back to:** [Exodus 9:18](#); [9:19](#); [9:22](#); [9:23](#); [9:24](#); [9:25](#); [9:26](#); [9:28](#); [9:29](#); [9:33](#); [9:34](#); [10:5](#); [10:12](#); [10:15](#))

hand

Definition:

The word “hand” refers to the part of the body at the end of the arm. This term is often used figuratively to refer to a person’s power, control, or action, whether it be in reference to God or in reference to a human person.

Some of the various uses of the term “hand” include the following:

- The term “hand” can be used figuratively to refer to the position of being “beside” a person, an object, or a location.
- To “lay a hand on” means to “harm.” To “save from the hand of” means to prevent someone from being harmed by another person.
- The position of being “on the right hand” means “on the right side” or “to the right.”
- The expression “by the hand of” someone means “by” or “through” the action of that person. For example, the phrase “by the hand of the Lord” means that God caused something to happen.
- Expressions such as “hand over to” or “deliver into the hands of” refer to causing someone to be under the control or power of someone else.
- The term “laying on of hands” can refer to placing a hand on a person in order to dedicate that person to God’s service, to pray for healing, or to ask God to bless that person.
- When Paul says “written by my hand,” it means that he himself wrote that part of the letter rather than speaking it to someone else to write down.

Translation Suggestions

- These expressions and other figures of speech could be translated using other figurative expressions that have the same meaning. Or the meaning could be translated using direct, literal language (see examples above).
- The expression “handed him the scroll” could also be translated as “gave him the scroll” or “put the scroll in his hand.” It was not given to him permanently, but just for the purpose of using it at that time.
- An expression such as “delivered them into the hands of their enemies” or “handed them over to their enemies,” could be translated as “allowed their enemies to conquer them” or “caused them to be captured by their enemies” or “empowered their enemies to gain control over them.”
- To “die by the hand of” could be translated as “be killed by.”
- The expression “on the right hand of” could be translated as “on the right side of.”
- In regard to Jesus being “seated at the right hand of God,” if this does not communicate in the language that it refers to a position of high honor and equal authority, a different expression with that meaning could be used. Or a short explanation could be added: “on the right side of God, in the position of highest authority.”

(See also: [power](#), [right hand](#), [honor](#), [bless](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 7:25
- Acts 8:17
- Acts 11:21
- Genesis 9:5
- Genesis 14:20
- John 3:35
- Mark 7:32
- Matthew 6:3

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2026, H2651, H2947, H2948, H3027, H3028, H3225, H3231, H3233, H3709, H7126, H7138, H8040, H8042, H8168, G07100, G11880, G14480, G14510, G21760, G29020, G40840, G44740, G54950, G54960, G54970

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:5](#); [2:19](#); [4:2](#); [4:4](#); [4:6](#); [4:7](#); [4:13](#); [4:17](#); [4:20](#); [4:21](#); [5:21](#); [6:1](#); [6:8](#); [7:4](#); [7:5](#); [7:15](#); [7:17](#); [7:19](#); [8:5](#); [8:6](#); [8:17](#); [9:3](#); [9:15](#); [9:22](#); [10:12](#); [10:21](#); [10:22](#); [12:11](#); [13:3](#); [13:9](#); [13:14](#); [13:16](#); [14:8](#); [14:16](#); [14:21](#); [14:26](#); [14:27](#); [15:9](#); [15:17](#); [15:20](#); [19:13](#); [22:8](#); [22:11](#); [29:35](#); [32:29](#); [33:22](#); [33:23](#); [35:29](#))

hard, harden, hardness

Definition:

The term “hard” generally refers to something that is difficult, persistent, or unyielding.

- The use of “hard” (in various forms) with “heart” refers to people being stubbornly unrepentant or disobedient (usually) to God.
- When used as a modifier, its meaning is similar to “great effort.”

Translation Suggestions

- The term “hard” could also be translated as “difficult” or “stubborn” or “challenging,” depending on the context.
- The terms “hardness” or “hardness of heart” or “hard heart” could be translated as “stubbornness” or “persistent rebellion” or “rebellious attitude” or “stubborn disobedience” or “stubbornly not repenting.”
- The term “hardened” could also be translated as “stubbornly unrepentant” or “refusing to obey.”
- “Do not harden your heart” could be translated as “do not refuse to repent” or “do not stubbornly keep disobeying.”
- Other ways to translate “hard-headed” or “hard-hearted” could include “stubbornly disobedient” or “continuing to disobey” or “refusing to repent” or “always rebelling.”
- In expressions such as “work hard” or “try hard,” the term “hard” could be translated as “with perseverance” or “diligently.”
- The expression “press hard against” could also be translated as “shove with force” or “push strongly against.”
- To “oppress people with hard labor” could be translated as “force people to work so hard that they suffer” or “cause people to suffer by forcing them to do very difficult work.”
- A different kind of “hard labor” is experienced by a woman who is about to deliver a baby.

(See also: [disobey](#), [evil](#), [heart](#), [labor pains](#), [stiff-necked](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Corinthians 11:23
- Deuteronomy 15:7
- Exodus 14:4
- Hebrews 4:7
- John 12:40
- Matthew 19:8

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0553, H1692, H2388, H2389, H2420, H2864, H3021, H3332, H3513, H3515, H3966, H4165, H4522, H5450, H5647, H5797, H5810, H5980, H5999, H6089, H6381, H6635, H7185, H7186, H7188, H7280, H8068, H8307, H8631, G09170, G14190, G14210, G14220, G14230, G22050, G25320, G25530, G28720, G28730, G34250, G34330, G40530, G41830, G44560, G44570, G46410, G46420, G46430, G46450, G49120

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:14](#); [6:9](#); [7:3](#); [13:15](#); [18:18](#); [18:26](#))

harvest, reap

Definition:

The term "harvest" refers to the gather the ripe fruits, vegetables, seeds, or grains from the plants on which they were growing. The term "reap" means to harvest crops.

- The harvest time normally happens at the end of a growing season.
- The Israelites held a "Festival of Harvest" or "Festival of Ingathering" to celebrate the reaping of the food crops. God commanded them to offer the first fruits of these crops as a sacrifice to him.
- In biblical times, reapers usually harvested crops by hand, either pulling up the plants or cutting them with a sharp cutting tool.

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate the concept with the word that is commonly used in the language to refer to the harvesting of crops.
- The event of harvesting could be translated as "time of gathering in" or "crop gathering time" or "fruit picking time."
- The verb to "harvest" could be translated as to "gather in" or to "pick up" or to "collect."

(See also: [firstfruits](#), [festival](#), good news)

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 9:9-11
- 2 Samuel 21:7-9
- Galatians 6:9-10
- Isaiah 17:11
- James 5:7-8
- Leviticus 19:9
- Matthew 9:38
- Ruth 1:22
- Galatians 6:9-10
- Matthew 6:25-26
- Matthew 13:30
- Matthew 13:36-39
- Matthew 25:24

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2758, H4395, H4672 H7105, H7114, H7938, G02700, G23250, G23260, G23270

(Go back to: [Exodus 22:29](#); [23:16](#); [34:21](#); [34:22](#))

head

Definition:

The word “head” refers to the uppermost body part of a human body, above the neck. This term is often used figuratively to mean many different things, including “top,” “first,” “beginning,” “source,” and other concepts.

Some examples of various uses of the term “head” include:

- The expression “no razor will ever touch his head” means that he should never cut or shave his hair.
- The expression “let their blood be on his own head” means that the man is responsible for their deaths and will receive the punishment for that.
- The expression “heads of grain” refers to the top part of wheat or barley plants that contains the seeds. Similarly, the expression “head of a mountain” refers to the top part of the mountain.
- The term “head” can also refer to the beginning or source of something, or the first in a series of things (can be objects or people).
- Often the term “head” refers to the most important person in a group or to a person who is in authority over others. For example, the phrase “You have made me the head over nations” means “You have made me the ruler...” or “You have given me authority over....”

Translation Suggestions

- Depending on the context, the term “head” could be translated as “authority” or “ruler” or “the one who is responsible for.”
- The expression “will be on his own head” could be translated as “will be on him” or “he will be punished for” or “he will be held responsible for” or “he will be considered guilty for.”
- Depending on the context, some other ways to translate this term might include “top” or “beginning” or “source” or “leader.”

(See also: [chief](#), [grain](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 1:51-54
- 1 Kings 8:1-2
- 1 Samuel 9:22
- Colossians 2:10
- Colossians 2:19
- Numbers 1:4

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0441, H1270, H1538, H3852, H4425, H4761, H4763, H5110, H5324, H6285, H6287, H6797, H6915, H6936, H7139, H7144, H7146, H7217, H7226, H7218, H7541, H7636, H7641, H7872, G03460, G07550, G27750, G27760, G47190

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:14](#); [6:25](#); [12:2](#); [12:9](#); [18:25](#); [29:17](#))

heart

Definition:

The term “heart” refers to the internal bodily organ that pumps blood throughout the body in people and animals. However, in the Bible the term “heart” is often used figuratively to refer to a person’s thoughts, emotions, desires, or will.

- To have a “hard heart” is a common expression that means a person stubbornly refuses to obey God.
- The expressions “with all my heart” or “with my whole heart” mean to do something with complete sincerity, commitment, or willingness, holding nothing back.
- The expression “take it to heart” means to treat something seriously and apply it to one’s life.
- The term “brokenhearted” describes a person who is very sad. That person has been deeply hurt emotionally.

Translation Suggestions

- Some languages use a different body part such as “stomach” or “liver” to refer to these ideas.
- Other languages may use one word to express some of these concepts and another word to express others.
- If “heart” or other body part does not have this meaning, some languages may need to express this literally with terms such as “thoughts” or “emotions” or “desires.”
- Depending on the context, “with all my heart” or “with my whole heart” could be translated as “with all my energy” or “with complete dedication” or “completely” or “with total commitment.”
- The expression “take it to heart” could be translated as “treat it seriously” or “carefully think about it.”
- The expression “hard-hearted” could also be translated as “stubbornly rebellious” or “refusing to obey” or “continually disobeying God.”
- Ways to translate “brokenhearted” could include “very sad” or “feeling deeply hurt.”

(See also: [hard](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 3:17
- 1 Thessalonians 2:4
- 2 Thessalonians 3:13-15
- Acts 8:22
- Acts 15:9
- Luke 8:15
- Mark 2:6
- Matthew 5:8
- Matthew 22:37

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1079, H2436, H2504, H2910, H3519, H3629, H3820, H3821, H3823, H3824, H3825, H3826, H4578, H5315, H5640, H7130, H7307, H7356, H7907, G06740, G12820, G12710, G21330, G25880, G25890, G46410, G46980, G55900

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:14; 4:21; 7:3; 7:13; 7:14; 7:22; 7:23; 8:15; 8:19; 8:32; 9:7; 9:12; 9:14; 9:21; 9:34; 9:35; 10:1; 10:20; 10:27; 11:10; 14:4; 14:5; 14:8; 14:17; 15:8; 25:2; 28:3; 28:29; 28:30; 31:6; 35:5; 35:10; 35:21; 35:22; 35:25; 35:26; 35:29; 35:34; 35:35; 36:1; 36:2; 36:8](#))

heaven, sky, heavens, heavenly

Definition:

The term that is translated as “heaven” usually refers to where God lives. The same word can also mean “sky,” depending on the context.

- The term “heavens” refers to everything we see above the earth, including the sun, moon, and stars. It also includes the heavenly bodies, such as far-off planets, that we can’t directly see from the earth.
- The term “sky” refers to the blue expanse above the earth that has clouds and the air we breathe. Often the sun and moon are also said to be “up in the sky.”
- In some contexts in the Bible, the word “heaven” could refer to either the sky or the place where God lives.

Translation Suggestions:

- For “kingdom of heaven” in the book of Matthew, it is best to keep the word “heaven” since this is distinctive to Matthew’s gospel.
- The terms “heavens” or “heavenly bodies” could also be translated as “sun, moon, and stars” or “all the stars in the universe.”
- The phrase, “stars of heaven” could be translated as “stars in the sky” or “stars in the galaxy” or “stars in the universe.”

(See also: kingdom of God)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 8:22-24
- 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10
- 1 Thessalonians 4:17
- Deuteronomy 9:1
- Ephesians 6:9
- Genesis 1:1
- Genesis 7:11
- John 3:12
- John 3:27
- Matthew 5:18
- Matthew 5:46-48

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **4:2** They even began building a tall tower to reach **heaven**.
- **14:11** He (God) gave them bread from **heaven**, called “manna.”
- **23:7** Suddenly, the skies were filled with angels praising God, saying, “Glory to God in **heaven** and peace on earth to the people he favors!”
- **29:9** Then Jesus said, “This is what my **heavenly** Father will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”
- **37:9** Then Jesus looked up to **heaven** and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me.”
- **42:11** Then Jesus went up to **heaven**, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1534, H6160, H6183, H7834, H8064, H8065, G09320, G20320, G33210, G37700, G37710, G37720

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:8](#); [9:10](#); [9:22](#); [9:23](#); [10:21](#); [10:22](#); [16:4](#); [17:14](#); [20:4](#); [20:11](#); [20:22](#); [24:10](#); [31:17](#); [32:13](#))

Hebrew

Facts:

The term “Hebrew” refers in a very general sense to the people group descended from Abraham through the line of Isaac and Jacob.

- The specific word “Hebrew” can refer either to a individual person in the people group or to the language spoken by that people group.
- The vast majority of the Old Testament was written in the language called “Hebrew.” However, in most cases in the New Testament, the specific term “Hebrew” probably refers to the Aramaic language rather than the Hebrew language.
- In different places in the Bible, the Hebrews were also called “Israelites” or “Jews.” When translating, it is best to keep all three terms distinct in the text, as long as it is clear that these terms refer to the same people group.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Israel](#), Jew, Jewish leaders)

Bible References:

- Acts 26:12-14
- Genesis 39:13-15
- Genesis 40:15
- Genesis 41:12-13
- John 5:1-4
- John 19:13
- Jonah 1:8-10
- Philippians 3:5

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5680, G14440, G14450, G14460, G14470

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:15; 1:16; 1:19; 2:6; 2:7; 2:11; 2:13; 3:18; 5:3; 7:16; 9:1; 9:13; 10:3; 21:2](#))

Hittite

Definition:

The Hittites were descendants of Ham through his son Canaan. They became a large empire located in what is now Turkey and northern Palestine.

- Abraham bought a piece of property from Ephron the Hittite so that he could bury his deceased wife Sarah in a cave there. Eventually Abraham and several of his descendants were also buried in that cave.
- Esau's parents were grieved when he married two Hittite women.
- One of David's mighty men was named Uriah the Hittite.
- Some of the foreign women that Solomon married were Hittites. These foreign women turned Solomon's heart away from God because of the false gods they worshiped.
- The Hittites were often a threat to the Israelites, both physically and spiritually.

(See also: [descendant](#), Esau, [foreigner](#), Ham, [mighty](#), Solomon, Uriah)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 9:20-21
- Exodus 3:7-8
- Genesis 23:11
- Genesis 25:10
- Joshua 1:4-5
- Nehemiah 9:8
- Numbers 13:27-29

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2850

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:8](#); [3:17](#); [13:5](#); [23:23](#); [23:28](#); [33:2](#); [34:11](#))

Hivite

Facts:

The Hivites were one of seven major people groups living in the land of Canaan.

- All these groups, including the Hivites, were descended from Canaan, who was Noah's grandson.
- Shechem the Hivite raped Jacob's daughter Dinah, and her brothers killed many Hivites in revenge.
- When Joshua led the Israelites to take over the land of Canaan, the Israelites were tricked into making a treaty with the Hivites instead of conquering them.

(Translation suggestions: [Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Canaan](#), Hamor, Noah, Shechem)

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 8:7-8
- Exodus 3:7-8
- Genesis 34:2
- Joshua 9:1-2
- Judges 3:1-3

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2340

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:8](#); [3:17](#); [13:5](#); [23:23](#); [23:28](#); [33:2](#); [34:11](#))

holy place

Definition:

In the Bible, the terms “the holy place” and “the most holy place” refer to the two parts of the tabernacle or temple building.

- The “holy place” was the first room, and it contained the altar of incense and the table with the special “bread of the presence” on it.
- The “most holy place” was the second, innermost room, and it contained the ark of the covenant.
- A thick, heavy curtain separated the outer room from the inner room.
- The high priest was the only one who was permitted to go into the most holy place.
- Sometimes “holy place” refers to both the building and courtyard areas of either the temple or tabernacle. It could also refer generally to any place that is set apart for God.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “holy place” could also be translated as “room set apart for God” or “special room for meeting God” or “place reserved for God.”
- The term “most holy place” could be translated as “room that is the most set apart for God” or “most special room for meeting God.”
- Depending on the context, ways to translate the general expression “a holy place” could include “a consecrated place” or “a place that God has set apart” or “a place in the temple complex, which is holy” or “a courtyard of God’s holy temple.”

(See also: [altar of incense](#), [ark of the covenant](#), [bread](#), [consecrate](#), [courtyard](#), [curtain](#), [holy](#), [set apart](#), [tabernacle](#), [temple](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 6:16-18
- Acts 6:12-15
- Exodus 26:33
- Exodus 31:10-11
- Ezekiel 41:1
- Ezra 9:8-9
- Hebrews 9:1-2
- Leviticus 16:18
- Matthew 24:15-18
- Revelation 15:5

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1964, H4720, H4725, H5116, H6918, H6944, G00400, G00400, G34850, G51170

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:17](#); [26:33](#); [26:34](#); [28:29](#); [28:35](#); [28:43](#); [35:19](#); [36:1](#); [36:3](#); [36:4](#); [36:6](#))

holy, holiness, unholy, sacred

Definition:

The terms "holy" and "holiness" refer to the character of God that is totally set apart and separated from everything that is sinful and imperfect.

- Only God is absolutely holy. He makes people and things holy.
- A person who is holy belongs to God and has been set apart for the purpose of serving God and bringing him glory.
- An object that God has declared to be holy is one that he has set apart for his glory and use, such as an altar that is for the purpose of offering sacrifices to him.
- People cannot approach him unless he allows them to, because he is holy and they are merely human beings, sinful and imperfect.
- In the Old Testament, God set apart the priests as holy for special service to him. They had to be ceremonially cleansed from sin in order to approach God.
- God also set apart as holy certain places and things that belonged to him or in which he revealed himself, such as his temple.

Literally, the term "unholy" means "not holy." It describes someone or something that does not honor God.

- This word is used to describe someone who dishonors God by rebelling against him.
- A thing that is called "unholy" could be described as being common, profane or unclean. It does not belong to God.

The term "sacred" describes something that relates to worshiping God or to the pagan worship of false gods.

- In the Old Testament, the term "sacred" was oftentimes used to describe the stone pillars and other objects used in the worship of false gods. This could also be translated as "religious."
- "Sacred songs" and "sacred music" refer to music that was sung or played for God's glory. This could be translated as "music for worshiping Yahweh" or "songs that praise God."
- The phrase "sacred duties" referred to the "religious duties" or "rituals" that a priest performed to lead people in worshiping God. It could also refer to the rituals performed by a pagan priest to worship a false god.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate "holy" might include "set apart for God" or "belonging to God" or "completely pure" or "perfectly sinless" or "separated from sin."
- To "make holy" is often translated as "sanctify" in English. It could also be translated as "set apart (someone) for God's glory."
- Ways to translate "unholy" could include "not holy" or "not belonging to God" or "not honoring to God" or "not godly."
- In some contexts, "unholy" could be translated as "unclean."

(See also: Holy Spirit, [consecrate](#), sanctify, [set apart](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 28:22
- 2 Kings 3:2
- Lamentations 4:1
- Ezekiel 20:18-20
- Matthew 7:6

- Mark 8:38
- Acts 7:33
- Acts 11:8
- Romans 1:2
- 2 Corinthians 12:3-5
- Colossians 1:22
- 1 Thessalonians 3:13
- 1 Thessalonians 4:7
- 2 Timothy 3:15

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **1:16** He (God) blessed the seventh day and made it **holy**, because on this day he rested from his work.
- **9:12** "You are standing on **holy** ground."
- **13:1** "If you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my prized possession, a kingdom of priests, and a **holy** nation."
- **13:5** "Always be sure to keep the Sabbath day **holy**."
- **22:5** "So the baby will be **holy**, the Son of God."
- **50:2** As we wait for Jesus to return, God wants us to live in a way that is **holy** and that honors him.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0430, H2455, H2623, H4676, H4720, H6918, H6922, H6942, H6944, H6948, G00370, G00380, G00400, G00400, G00410, G00420, G04620, G18590, G21500, G24120, G24130, G28390, G37410, G37420

(Go back to: [Exodus 3 General Notes](#); [3:5](#); [Notes](#); [12:16](#); [15:11](#); [15:13](#); [16:23](#); [Notes](#); [19:6](#); [19:14](#); [19:22](#); [22:31](#); [Notes](#); [Notes](#); [Notes](#); [28:2](#); [28:4](#); [28:36](#); [28:38](#); [Notes](#); [29:6](#); [29:29](#); [29:30](#); [29:31](#); [Notes](#); [30:10](#); [30:25](#); [30:29](#); [30:31](#); [30:32](#); [30:35](#); [30:36](#); [30:37](#); [31:10](#); [31:11](#); [31:14](#); [31:15](#); [35:2](#); [35:19](#); [35:21](#); [37:29](#); [Notes](#); [39:1](#); [39:30](#); [39:41](#); [40:9](#); [40:10](#); [40:13](#))

honey, honeycomb

Definition:

“Honey” is the sweet, sticky, edible substance that honeybees make out of flower nectar. Honeycomb is the waxy frame where the bees store honey.

- Depending on the kind, honey can be yellowish or brownish in color.
- Honey can be found in the wild, such as in the hollow of a tree, or wherever bees make a nest. People also raise bees in hives in order to produce honey to eat or sell, but probably the honey mentioned in the Bible was wild honey.
- Three people that the Bible specifically mentions as eating wild honey were Jonathan, Samson, and John the Baptist.
- This term is often used figuratively to describe something that is sweet or very pleasurable. For example, God’s words and decrees are said to be “sweeter than honey.” (See also: [Simile](#), [Metaphor](#))
- Sometimes a person’s words are described as seeming sweet like honey, but instead result in deceiving and harming others.

(See also: John (the Baptist), Jonathan, [Philistines](#), Samson)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 14:1-3
- Deuteronomy 6:3
- Exodus 13:3-5
- Joshua 5:6
- Proverbs 5:3

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1706, H3293, H3295, H5317, H6688, G31920

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:8](#); [3:17](#); [13:5](#); [16:31](#); [33:3](#))

honor

Definition:

The terms "honor" and to "honor" refer to giving someone respect, esteem, or reverence.

- Honor is usually given to someone who is of higher status and importance, such as a king or God.
- God instructs Christians to honor others.
- Children are instructed to honor their parents in ways that include respecting them and obeying them.
- The terms "honor" and "glory" are often used together, especially when referring to Jesus. These may be two different ways of referring to the same thing.
- Ways of honoring God include thanking and praising him, and showing him respect by obeying him and living in a way that shows how great he is.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate "honor" could include "respect" or "esteem" or "high regard."
- The term to "honor" could be translated as to "show special respect to" or to "cause to be praised" or to "show high regard for" or to "highly value."

(See also: [dishonor](#), [glory](#), [glory](#), [praise](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 2:8
- Acts 19:17
- John 4:44
- John 12:26
- Mark 6:4
- Matthew 15:6

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1420, H1921, H1922, H1923, H1926, H1927, H1935, H2082, H2142, H3366, H3367, H3368, H3372, H3373, H3374, H3444, H3513, H3519, H3655, H3678, H5081, H5375, H5457, H6213, H6286, H6437, H6942, H6944, H6965, H7236, H7613, H7812, H8597, H8416, G08200, G13910, G13920, G17840, G21510, G25700, G31700, G44110, G45860, G50910, G50920, G50930, G53990

(Go back to: [Exodus 20:12](#))

hoof

Facts:

These terms refer to the hard material covering the bottom of the feet of certain animals such as camels, cattle, deer, horses, donkeys, pigs, oxen, sheep, and goats.

- An animal's hooves protect its feet when walking.
- Some animals have hooves that are split into two parts and others do not.
- God told the Israelites that animals which had split hooves and chewed a cud were considered clean to eat. This included cattle, sheep, deer, and oxen.

(See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: [camel](#), [cow](#), [ox](#), [donkey](#), [goat](#), [pig](#), [sheep](#))

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 14:6
- Ezekiel 26:9-11
- Leviticus 11:4
- Psalms 69:31

Word Data:

- Strong's: H6119, H6471, H6536, H6541, H7272

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:26](#))

Horeb

Definition:

Mount Horeb is another name for Mount Sinai, where God gave Moses the stone tablets with the ten commandments.

- Mount Horeb is called the “mountain of God.”
- Horeb was the place where Moses saw the burning bush when he was tending sheep.
- Mount Horeb was the place where God revealed his covenant to the Israelites by giving them the stone tablets with his commandments written on them.
- It was also the place where God later told Moses to strike a rock to provide water for the Israelites as they were wandering in the desert.
- The exact location of this mountain is not known, but it may have been in the southern part of what is now the Sinai Peninsula.
- It is possible that “Horeb” was the actual name of the mountain and that “Mount Sinai” simply means “mountain of Sinai,” referring to the fact that Mount Horeb was located in the desert of Sinai.

(See also: [covenant](#), [Israel](#), [Moses](#), [Sinai](#), Ten Commandments)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 8:9-11
- 2 Chronicles 5:9-10
- Deuteronomy 1:2
- Exodus 3:1-3
- Psalms 106:19

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2722

(Go back to: [Exodus 33:6](#); [34:2](#))

horn, horned

Facts:

Horns are permanent, hard, pointed growths on the heads of many types of animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, and deer.

- The horn of a ram (male sheep) was made into a musical instrument called a “ram’s horn” or “shofar,” which was blown for special events such as religious festivals.
- God told the Israelites to make a horn-shaped projection on each of the four corners of the incense and brazen altars. Although these projections were called “horns,” they were not actually animal horns.
- The term “horn” was sometimes used to refer to a “flask” that was shaped like a horn and was used for holding water or oil. A flask of oil was used for anointing a king, as Samuel did with David.
- This term should be translated with a word that is different from the word that refers to a trumpet.
- The term “horn” is also used figuratively as a symbol of strength, power, authority, and royalty.

(See also: [authority](#), [cow](#), deer, [goat](#), [power](#) royal, [sheep](#), trumpet)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 15:27-28
- 1 Kings 1:39
- 2 Samuel 22:3
- Jeremiah 17:1
- Psalms 22:21

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H3104, H7160, H7161, H7162, H7782, G27680

(Go back to: [Exodus 19:13](#); [19:16](#); [19:19](#); [20:18](#); [27:2](#); [30:2](#); [30:3](#); [30:10](#); [37:25](#); [37:26](#); [38:2](#))

horse, warhorse, horseback

Definition:

A horse is a large, four-legged animal that in Bible times was mostly used for war and for transporting people.

- Some horses were used to pull carts or chariots, while others were used to carry individual riders.
- In the Bible, horses were considered to be valuable possessions and a measure of wealth, mainly because of their use in war. For example, part of King Solomon's great wealth was the thousands of horses and chariots that he had.
- Animals that are similar to the horse are the donkey and the mule.
- Horses often wear a bit and bridle on their heads so they can be guided.

(See also: [chariot](#), [donkey](#), Solomon)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 18:4
- 2 Kings 2:11
- Exodus 14:23-25
- Ezekiel 23:5-7
- Zechariah 6:8

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0047, H5483, H5484, H6571, H7409, G24620

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:3](#); [14:9](#); [14:23](#); [15:1](#); [15:19](#); [15:21](#))

horseman

Definition:

In Bible times, the term “horsemen” referred to men who rode horses into battle.

- Warriors who rode in horse-pulled chariots may also have been called “horsemen,” though this term usually refers to men who were actually riding on horses.
- Yahweh commanded the Israelites not to have many horsemen because having a strong army would cause them to trust their own strength rather than Yahweh in battle.
- This term could also be translated as “horse riders” or “men on horses.”

(See also: [chariot](#), [horse](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 1:5
- Daniel 11:40-41
- Exodus 14:23-25
- Genesis 50:7-9

Word Data:

- Strong's: H6571, H7395, G24600

(Go back to: [Exodus 14:9](#); [14:17](#); [14:18](#); [14:23](#); [14:26](#); [14:28](#); [15:19](#))

house, household

Definition:

The term “house” refers to a small building, shelter, or tent, usually the place where a family sleeps. The term is often used figuratively in the Bible to mean various concepts such as “household” or “descendants,” etc.

- Sometimes the term “house” means “household,” referring to all the people who live together in one house or multi-structure home compound (whether buildings or tents), including family members and all their servants.
- Sometimes the term “house” means “family” or “descendants,” referring to all the people related to or descended from a particular person. For example, the phrase “house of David” refers to all the descendants of King David.
- The terms “house of God” and “house of Yahweh” refer to the tabernacle or temple. These expressions can also refer generally to a central place where Yahweh was worshipped.
- The phrase “house of Israel” can refer generally to the entire nation of Israel or more specifically to the tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel.

Translation Suggestions

- Depending on the context, “house” could be translated as “household” or “people” or “family” or “descendants” or “temple” or “dwelling place.”
- The phrase “house of David” could be translated as “clan of David” or “family of David” or “descendants of David.” Related expressions could be translated in a similar way.
- Different ways to translate “house of Israel” could include “people of Israel” or “Israel’s descendants” or “Israelites.”
- The phrase “house of Yahweh” could be translated as “Yahweh’s temple” or “place where Yahweh is worshipped” or “place where Yahweh meets with his people” or “where Yahweh dwells.” The phrase “house of God” could be translated in a similar way.

(See also: [descendant](#), house of God, [tabernacle](#), temple, house of David, kingdom of Israel)

Bible References:

- Acts 7:42
- Acts 7:49
- Genesis 39:4
- Genesis 41:40
- Luke 8:39
- Matthew 10:6
- Matthew 15:24

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1004, H1005, G36090, G36130, G36140, G36240

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:1; 1:21; 2:1; 3:22; 6:14; 8:3; 8:9; 8:11; 8:13; 8:21; 8:24; 9:19; 9:20; 10:6; 12:3; 12:4; 12:7; 12:13; 12:15; 12:19; 12:22; 12:23; 12:27; 12:29; 12:30; 12:46; 13:3; 13:14; 16:31; 19:3; 20:2; 20:17; 22:7; 22:8; 23:19; 34:26; 40:38](#))

humble, humbled, humility

Definition:

The term “humble” describes a person who does not think of himself as better than others. He is not proud or arrogant. Humility is the quality of being humble.

- To be humble before God means to understand one’s weakness and imperfection in comparison with his greatness, wisdom and perfection.
- When a person humbles himself, he puts himself in a position of lower importance.
- Humility is caring about the needs of others more than one’s own needs.
- Humility also means serving with a modest attitude when using one’s gifts and abilities.
- The phrase “be humble” could be translated as “don’t be prideful.”
- “Humble yourself before God” could be translated as “Submit your will to God, recognizing his greatness.”

(See also: [proud](#))

Bible References:

- James 1:21
- James 3:13
- James 4:10
- Luke 14:11
- Luke 18:14
- Matthew 18:4
- Matthew 23:12

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **17:2** David was a **humble** and righteous man who trusted and obeyed God.
- **34:10** “God will **humble** everyone who is proud, and he will lift up whoever **humbles** himself.”

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1792, H3665, H6031, H6035, H6038, H6041, H6800, H6819, H7511, H7807, H7812, H8213, H8214, H8215, H8217, H8467, G08580, G42360, G42390, G42400, G50110, G50120, G50130, G53910

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:3](#))

I am Yahweh

Facts:

The statement “I am Yahweh” is used to mark out a command, historical event, promise, or prophecy as something that is particularly important, as something that happened by Yahweh’s power, or as something that will happen regardless of circumstances. This certainty is based on Yahweh’s character and strength as the all-powerful ruler over all things. At the same time, the statement is used to give Yahweh’s people understanding of who he is and what his name means. By reflecting on the command, historical event, promise, or prophecy so marked, the listener will understand more of who Yahweh is. Leviticus 11:44–45 makes it clear that by adhering to the holiness laws that follow, the people will become holy like Yahweh. There are four primary ways or forms in which this statement occurs:

As “I am Yahweh” or “I am Yahweh your God”

As the statement “[someone] will know that I am Yahweh” (often followed by “when [I do something]”). This is the most common use.

Followed by an example of what he is going to do or has done that validates his character and power

Followed by an attribute

These uses can be combined, such as in Leviticus 19:2, 19:36, and 20:24.

Translation Suggestions:

- As much as possible, translate this statement fairly literally. This will probably not be difficult for the second and third forms above.
- Ezekiel 20:5 and Hebrews 6:13 indicate that in at least some instances (Genesis 28:13, Exodus 6:2, 6:6, 6:8, etc.), “I am Yahweh” should be viewed as an oath formula. In these instances (primarily form one above) you may need to include an explanatory comment in your translation.
 - If Yahweh is making a promise, you may need to make this explicit, using an example such as: “I am Yahweh who swears to you.”
 - In Leviticus especially, the statement appears connected to many commands and you may need to make this explicit with a statement, such as: “I am Yahweh who commands this.” You could also use a slightly longer statement, such as: “I am Yahweh, and I bind you to this with an oath.” However, a statement this long may be tedious, so you could consider only using it the first (and possibly the last) time that “I am Yahweh” occurs in a series.
- Some languages will use “the Lord” in place of Yahweh; see [Yahweh](#) for more.

(See also: [Lord](#), [Lord Yahweh](#), [Yahweh](#))

Bible References:

Exodus 6:2, 6:6, 6:8, 12:12, Leviticus 18-26 throughout, Numbers 3:13
 Exodus 7:17, 8:18, 14:4, 1 Kings 20:13, 20:28, Ezekiel 6:7, 6:13, 12:15, 28:22
 Exodus 6:6, 20:2, Leviticus 20:24, Ezekiel (throughout) 6:7, 6:13, 12:15, 17:24, 20:5-7, Hosea 12:10, 13:4,
 Zechariah 10:6, Psalm 81:11, Isaiah 44:24
 Exodus 15:26, 20:5, Deuteronomy 5:9, Isaiah 43:3, 43:15, Jeremiah 9:23

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0589, H3068, H3069, H3070, H3071, H3072, H3073, H3074, G06380, G33780

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:2](#); [6:6](#); [6:7](#); [6:8](#); [6:29](#); [7:5](#); [7:17](#); [8:22](#); [10:2](#); [12:12](#); [14:4](#); [14:18](#); [15:26](#); [16:12](#); [20:2](#); [20:5](#); [29:46](#); [31:13](#))

image, carved image, cast metal images, figure, carved figure, statue

Definition:

These terms are all used to refer to idols that have been made for worshiping a false god. In the context of worshiping idols, the term “image” is a shortened form of “carved image.”

- A “carved image” or “carved figure” is a wooden object that has been made to look like an animal, person, or thing.
- A “cast metal figure” is an object or statue created by melting metal and pouring it into a mold that is in the shape of an object, animal, or person.
- These wooden and metal objects were used in the worship of false gods.
- The term “image” when referring to an idol could either refer to a wooden or metal idol.

Translation Suggestions:

- When referring to an idol, the term “image” could also be translated as “statue” or “engraved idol” or “carved religious object.”
- It may be more clear in some languages to always use a descriptive word with this term, such as “carved image” or “cast metal figure,” even in places where only the term “image” or “figure” is in the original text.
- Make sure it is clear that this term is different than the term used to refer to being in the image of God.

(See also: false god, [God](#), false god, image of God)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 14:9-10
- Acts 7:43
- Isaiah 21:8-9
- Matthew 22:21
- Romans 1:23

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0457, H1544, H2553, H4541, H4676, H4853, H4906, H5257, H5262, H5566, H6091, H6456, H6459, H6754, H6755, H6816, H8403, H8544, H8655, G15040, G51790

(Go back to: [Exodus 20:4](#))

incense

Definition:

The term “incense” refers to a mixture of fragrant spices that is burned to produce smoke that has a pleasant smell.

- God told the Israelites to burn incense as an offering to him.
- The incense had to be made by mixing equal amounts of five specific spices exactly as God directed. This was a sacred incense, so they were not allowed to use it for any other purpose.
- The “altar of incense” was a special altar that was only used for burning incense.
- The incense was offered at least four times a day, at each hour of prayer. It was also offered every time a burnt offering was made.
- The burning of incense represents prayer and worship rising up to God from his people.
- Other ways to translate “incense” could include “fragrant spices” or “good-smelling plants.”

(See also: [altar of incense](#), [burnt offering](#), [frankincense](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 3:1-3
- 2 Chronicles 13:10-11
- 2 Kings 14:4
- Exodus 25:3-7
- Luke 1:10

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2553, H3828, H4196, H4289, H5208, H6988, H6999, H7002, H7004, H7381, G23680, G23690, G23700, G23790, G30310

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:6](#); [30:1](#); [30:7](#); [30:8](#); [30:9](#); [30:27](#); [30:35](#); [30:37](#); [31:8](#); [31:11](#); [35:8](#); [35:15](#); [35:28](#); [37:25](#); [37:29](#); [40:27](#))

inherit, inheritance, heir

Definition:

The term “inherit” refers to receiving something valuable from a parent after a parent dies. The term can also refer to receiving something valuable from some other person because of a special relationship with that person. An “inheritance” is the things that are received, and an “heir” is a person who receives an inheritance.

- A physical inheritance that is received may be money, land, or other kinds of property.
- God promised Abraham and his descendants that they would inherit the land of Canaan, that it would belong to them forever.

Translation Suggestions:

- As always, consider first whether there are already terms in the target language for the concept of an heir or an inheritance, and use those terms.
- Depending on the context, other ways that the term “inherit” could be translated might include “receive” or “possess” or “come into possession of.”
- Ways to translate “inheritance” could include “promised gift” or “secure possession.”
- The term “heir” could be translated with a word or phrase that means “privileged child who receives the father’s possessions.”
- The term “heritage” could be translated as “inherited blessings.”

(See also: heir, [Canaan](#), [Promised Land](#), [possess](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 6:9
- 1 Peter 1:4
- 2 Samuel 21:3
- Acts 7:4-5
- Deuteronomy 20:16
- Galatians 5:21
- Genesis 15:7
- Hebrews 9:15
- Jeremiah 2:7
- Luke 15:11
- Matthew 19:29
- Psalm 79:1

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **4:6** When Abram arrived in Canaan God said, “Look all around you. I will give to you and your descendants all the land that you can see as an **inheritance**.”
- **27:1** One day, an expert in the Jewish law came to Jesus to test him, saying, “Teacher, what must I do to **inherit** eternal life?”
- **35:3** “There was a man who had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘Father, I want my **inheritance** now!’ So the father divided his property between the two sons.”

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2490, H2506, H3423, H3425, H4181, H5157, H5159, G28160, G28170, G28190, G28200

(Go back to: [Exodus 34:9](#))

iniquity

Definition:

The term “iniquity” is a word that is very similar in meaning to the term “sin,” but may more specifically refer to conscious acts of wrongdoing or great wickedness.

- The word “iniquity” literally means a twisting or distorting (of the law). It refers to major injustice.
- Iniquity could be described as deliberate, harmful actions against other people.
- Other definitions of iniquity include “perversity” and “depravity,” which are both words that describe conditions of terrible sin.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “iniquity” could be translated as “wickedness” or “perverse actions” or “harmful acts.”
- Often, “iniquity” occurs in the same text as the word “sin” and “transgression” so it is important to have different ways of translating these terms.

(See also: [sin](#), [transgress](#), trespass)

Bible References:

- Daniel 9:13
- Exodus 34:5-7
- Genesis 15:14-16
- Genesis 44:16
- Habakkuk 2:12
- Matthew 13:41
- Matthew 23:27-28
- Micah 3:10

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0205, H1942, H5753, H5758, H5766, H5771, H5932, H5999, H7562, G00920, G00930, G04580, G38920, G41890

(Go back to: [Exodus 20:5](#); [28:38](#); [28:43](#); [34:7](#); [34:9](#))

innocent

Definition:

The term “innocent” means to not be guilty of a crime or other wrongdoing. It can also refer more generally to people who are not involved in evil things.

- A person accused of doing something wrong is innocent if he has not committed that wrong.
- Sometimes the term “innocent” is used to refer to people who have done nothing wrong to deserve the bad treatment they are receiving, as in an enemy army attacking “innocent people.”
- In the Bible, “blood” can represent “killing,” so “innocent blood” refers to “killing people who did not deserve to die.”

Translation Suggestions:

- In most contexts, the term “innocent” can be translated as “not guilty” or “not responsible” or “not to blame” for something.
- When referring in general to innocent people, this term could be translated as “who have done nothing wrong” or “who are not involved in evil.”
- “To shed innocent blood” can be translated as “to kill people who did not deserve to die.”

(See also: [guilt](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 4:4
- 1 Samuel 19:5
- Acts 20:26
- Exodus 23:7
- Jeremiah 22:17
- Job 9:23
- Romans 16:18

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **8:6** After two years, Joseph was still in prison, even though he was **innocent**.
- **40:4** One of them mocked Jesus, but the other said, “Do you have no fear of God? We are guilty, but this man is **innocent**.”
- **40:8** When the soldier guarding Jesus saw everything that happened, he said, “Certainly, this man was **innocent**. He was the Son of God.”

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2136, H2600, H2643, H5352, H5355, H5356, G01210

(Go back to: [Exodus 21:28](#); [23:7](#))

inquire, inquiries

Facts:

The term "inquire" means to ask someone for information. The expression "inquire of" is often used to refer to asking God for wisdom or help.

- The Old Testament records several instances where people inquired of God.
- The word can also be used of a king or government official making a search through official written records.
- Depending on the context, "inquire" could be translated as "ask" or "ask for information."
- The expression "inquire of Yahweh" could be translated as "ask Yahweh for guidance" or "ask Yahweh what to do."
- To "inquire after" something could be translated as "ask questions about" or "ask for information about."
- When Yahweh says "I will not be inquired of by you," this could be translated as "I will not allow you to ask me for information" or "you will not be permitted to seek help from me."

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 19:18
- Ezekiel 20:1
- Ezekiel 20:30-32
- Ezra 7:14
- Job 10:7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1240, H1245, H1875, G18300

(Go back to: [Exodus 18:15](#))

instruct, instruction, instructors

Facts:

The terms “instruct” and “instruction” refer to giving specific directions about what to do.

- To “give instructions” means to tell someone specifically what he is supposed to do.
- When Jesus gave the disciples the bread and fish to distribute to the people, he gave them specific instructions about how to do it.
- Depending on the context, the term “instruct” could also be translated as “tell” or “direct” or “teach” or “give instructions to.”
- The term “instructions” could be translated as “directions” or “explanations” or “what he has told you to do.”
- When God gives instructions, this term is sometimes translated as “commands” or “orders.”

(See also: [command](#), decree, [teach](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 14:4
- Genesis 26:5
- Hebrews 11:22
- Matthew 10:5
- Matthew 11:1
- Proverbs 1:30

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0241, H0376, H0559, H0631, H1004, H1696, H1697, H3256, H3289, H3384, H4148, H4156, H4687, H4931, H4941, H6098, H6310, H6490, H6680, H7919, H8451, G12560, G12990, G13190, G13210, G13780, G17810, G17850, G27270, G27530, G35590, G35600, G38110, G38520, G38530, G42640, G43670, G48220

(Go back to: [Exodus 16:24](#))

Isaac

Facts:

Isaac was the only son of Abraham and Sarah. God had promised to give them a son even though they were very old.

- The name “Isaac” means “he laughs.” When God told Abraham that Sarah would give birth to a son, Abraham laughed because they were both very old. Some time later, Sarah also laughed when she heard this news.
- But God fulfilled his promise and Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah in their old age.
- God told Abraham that the covenant he had made with Abraham would also be for Isaac and his descendants forever.
- When Isaac was a youth, God tested Abraham’s faith by commanding him to sacrifice Isaac.
- Isaac’s son Jacob had twelve sons whose descendants later became the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Abraham](#), [descendant](#), [eternity](#), [fulfill](#), [Jacob](#), Sarah, twelve tribes of Israel)

Bible References:

- Galatians 4:28-29
- Genesis 25:9-11
- Genesis 25:19
- Genesis 26:1
- Genesis 26:8
- Genesis 28:1-2
- Genesis 31:18
- Matthew 8:11-13
- Matthew 22:32

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **5:4** “Your wife, Sarai, will have a son—he will be the son of promise. Name him **Isaac**.”
- **5:6** When **Isaac** was a young man, God tested Abraham’s faith by saying, “Take **Isaac**, your only son, and kill him as a sacrifice to me.”
- **5:9** God had provided the ram to be the sacrifice instead of **Isaac**.
- **6:1** When Abraham was very old and his son, **Isaac**, had grown to be a man, Abraham sent one of his servants back to the land where his relatives lived to find a wife for his son, **Isaac**.
- **6:5** **Isaac** prayed for Rebekah, and God allowed her to get pregnant with twins.
- **7:10** Then **Isaac** died, and Jacob and Esau buried him. The covenant promises God had promised to Abraham and then to **Isaac** now passed on to Jacob.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H3327, H3446, G24640

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:24](#); [3:6](#); [3:15](#); [3:16](#); [4:5](#); [6:3](#); [6:8](#); [32:13](#); [33:1](#))

Israel, Israelites

Facts:

The term "Israel" is the name that God gave to Jacob. Often it refers to the nation that is descended from him.

- The name Israel probably means "He struggles with God."
- The descendants of Jacob became known as the "sons of Israel" or the "people of Israel" or the "nation of Israel" or the "Israelites."
- God formed his covenant with the people of Israel. They were his chosen people.
- The nation of Israel consisted of twelve tribes.
- Soon after King Solomon died, Israel was divided into two kingdoms: the southern kingdom, called "Judah," and the northern kingdom, called "Israel."
- Often the term "Israel" can be translated as "the people of Israel" or "the nation of Israel," depending on the context.

(See also: [Jacob](#), kingdom of Israel, Judah, [nation](#), twelve tribes of Israel)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 10:1
- 1 Kings 8:2
- Acts 2:36
- Acts 7:24
- Acts 13:23
- John 1:49-51
- Luke 24:21
- Mark 12:29
- Matthew 2:6
- Matthew 27:9
- Philippians 3:4-5

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **8:15** The descendants of the twelve sons became the twelve tribes of **Israel**.
- **9:3** The Egyptians forced the **Israelites** to build many buildings and even whole cities.
- **9:5** A certain **Israelite** woman gave birth to a baby boy.
- **10:1** They said, "This is what the God of **Israel** says, 'Let my people go!'"
- **14:12** But despite all this, the people of *_Israel_* complained and grumbled against God and against Moses.
- **15:9** God fought for **Israel** that day. He caused the Amorites to be confused and he sent large hailstones that killed many of the Amorites.
- **15:12** After this battle, God gave each tribe of **Israel** *its own section of the Promised Land. Then God gave _Israel_ peace along all its borders.*
- **16:16** So God punished *_Israel_* again for worshipping idols.
- **43:6** "Men of **Israel**, Jesus was a man who did many mighty signs and wonders by the power of God, as you have seen and already know."

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3478, H3479, H3481, H3482, G09350, G24740, G24750

(Go back to: Exodus 1:1; 1:7; 1:9; 1:12; 1:13; 2:23; 2:25; 3:9; 3:10; 3:11; 3:13; 3:14; 3:15; 3:16; 3:18; 4:22; 4:29; 4:31; 5:1; 5:2; 5:14; 5:15; 5:19; 6:5; 6:6; 6:9; 6:11; 6:12; 6:13; 6:14; 6:26; 6:27; 7:2; 7:4; 7:5; 9:4; 9:6; 9:7; 9:26; 9:35; 10:20; 10:23; 11:7; 11:10; 12:3; 12:6; 12:15; 12:19; 12:21; 12:27; 12:28; 12:31; 12:35; 12:37; 12:40; 12:42; 12:47; 12:50; 12:51; 13:2; 13:18; 13:19; 14:2; 14:3; 14:5; 14:8; 14:10; 14:15; 14:16; 14:19; 14:20; 14:22; 14:25; 14:29; 14:30; 14:31; 15:1; 15:19; 15:22; 16:1; 16:2; 16:3; 16:6; 16:9; 16:10; 16:12; 16:15; 16:17; 16:31; 16:35; 17:1; 17:5; 17:6; 17:7; 17:8; 17:11; 18:1; 18:8; 18:9; 18:12; 18:25; 19:1; 19:2; 19:3; 19:6; 20:22; 24:1; 24:4; 24:5; 24:9; 24:10; 24:11; 24:17; 25:2; 25:22; 27:20; 27:21; 28:1; 28:9; 28:11; 28:12; 28:21; 28:29; 28:30; 28:38; 29:28; 29:43; 29:45; 30:12; 30:16; 30:31; 31:13; 31:16; 31:17; 32:4; 32:8; 32:13; 32:20; 32:27; 33:5; 33:6; 34:23; 34:27; 34:30; 34:32; 34:34; 34:35; 35:1; 35:4; 35:20; 35:29; 35:30; 36:3; 39:6; 39:7; 39:14; 39:32; 39:42; 40:36; 40:38)

Issachar

Facts:

Issachar was Jacob's ninth son. He was Leah's fifth son. His descendants became one of the tribes of Israel.

- The tribe descended from him was known as the "tribe of Issachar" or "Issachar."
- The meaning of the name is unknown, but it is similar to a Hebrew word meaning "reward, hire."
- The tribe of Issachar settled in central Canaan, southwest of the Sea of Galilee. Issachar's land was bordered by the lands of Naphtali, Zebulun, Manasseh, and Gad.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, [Jacob](#), Leah)

Bible References:

- Genesis 30:18
- Exodus 1:1-5
- Ezekiel 48:23-26
- Joshua 17:10

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3485, G24660

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:3](#))

Jacob, Israel

Facts:

Jacob was the younger twin son of Isaac by Rebekah. God changed his name to "Israel." His descendants became the nation of Israel.

- Jacob is the last of the three patriarchs of the Israelite nation: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The descendants of Jacob's twelve sons became the twelve tribes of Israel.
- The name Jacob is similar to the Hebrew word meaning "heel." As Jacob was being born, he was holding onto the heel of his twin brother Esau. In the Old Testament times, the heel was a body part associated both with attack and with the rear part of a person's body. The Hebrew name Jacob was probably associated with the idea of attacking someone from behind.
- Many years later, God changed Jacob's name to "Israel," which probably means "He struggles with God."
- Jacob married Laban's two daughters, Leah and Rachel, as well as each of their servants, Zilpah and Bilhah. These four women mothered the twelve sons who became the ancestral fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- In the New Testament, a different man named Jacob is listed as being Joseph's father in Matthew's genealogy.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Israel](#), twelve tribes of Israel, Leah, Rachel, Zilpah, Bilhah, [deceive](#), Esau, [Isaac](#), Rebekah, Laban)

Bible References:

- Acts 7:11
- Acts 7:46
- Genesis 25:26
- Genesis 29:1-3
- Genesis 32:1-2
- John 4:4-5
- Matthew 8:11-13
- Matthew 22:32

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **7:1** As the boys grew up, Rebekah loved **Jacob**, but Isaac loved Esau. **Jacob** loved to stay at home, but Esau loved to hunt.
- **7:7** **Jacob** lived there for many years, and during that time he married and had twelve sons and a daughter. God made him very wealthy.
- **7:8** After twenty years away from his home in Canaan, **Jacob** returned there with his family, his servants, and all his herds of animals.
- **7:10** The covenant promises God had promised to Abraham and then to Isaac now passed on to **Jacob**.
- **8:1** Many years later, when **Jacob** was an old man, he sent his favorite son, Joseph, to check on his brothers who were taking care of the herds.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3290, G23840

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:1](#); [1:5](#); [2:24](#); [3:6](#); [3:15](#); [3:16](#); [4:5](#); [6:3](#); [6:8](#); [19:3](#); [33:1](#))

jealous, jealousy

Definition:

The terms “jealous” and “jealousy” refer to a strong desire to protect the purity of a relationship. They can also refer to a strong desire to keep possession of something or someone.

- These terms are often used to describe the angry feeling that a person has toward a spouse who has been unfaithful in their marriage.
- When used in the Bible, these terms often refer to God’s strong desire for his people to remain pure and unstained by sin.
- God is also “jealous” for his name, desiring that it be treated with honor and reverence.
- Another meaning of jealous involves being angry that someone else is successful or more popular. This is close in meaning to the word “envious.”

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate “jealous” could include “strong protective desire” or “possessive desire.”
- The term “jealousy” could be translated as “strong protective feeling” or “possessive feeling.”
- When talking about God, make sure the translation of these terms does not give a negative meaning of being resentful of someone else.
- In the context of people’s wrong feelings of anger toward other people who are more successful, the terms “envious” and “envy” could be used. But these terms should not be used for God.

(See also: [envy](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Corinthians 12:20
- Deuteronomy 5:9
- Exodus 20:5
- Ezekiel 36:5
- Joshua 24:19
- Nahum 1:2-3
- Romans 13:13

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H7065, H7067, H7068, H7072, G22050, G38630

(Go back to: [Exodus 20:5](#); [34:14](#))

Jebus, Jebusite

Facts:

The Jebusites were a people group living in the land of Canaan. They were descended from Ham's son Canaan.

- The Jebusites lived in the city of Jebus, and its name was later changed to Jerusalem when King David conquered it.
- Melchizedek, the king of Salem, was probably of Jebusite origin.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Canaan](#), Ham, Jerusalem, Melchizedek)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 1:14
- 1 Kings 9:20-21
- Exodus 3:7-8
- Genesis 10:16
- Joshua 3:9-11
- Judges 1:20-21

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2982, H2983

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:8](#); [3:17](#); [13:5](#); [23:23](#); [33:2](#); [34:11](#))

Jethro, Reuel

Facts:

The names "Jethro" and "Reuel" both refer to the father of Moses' wife, Zipporah. There were also two other men named "Reuel" in the Old Testament.

- When Moses was a shepherd in the land of Midian, he married the daughter of a Midianite man named Reuel.
- Later on Reuel is referred to as "Jethro, the priest of Midian." It could be that "Reuel" was his clan name.
- When God spoke to Moses from a flaming bush, Moses was tending Jethro's sheep,
- Some time later, after God had rescued the Israelites from Egypt, Jethro came out to the Israelites in the wilderness and gave Moses good advice about judging the affairs of the people.
- He believed in God when he heard about all the miracles God had done for the Israelites in Egypt.
- One of Esau's sons was named Reuel.
- Another man named Reuel is mentioned in the genealogy of the Israelites who returned to resettle in Judah after their captivity in Babylon had ended.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [captive](#), [clan](#), [desert](#), [Egypt](#), [Esau](#), [miracle](#), [Moses](#), [desert](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 1:34-37
- Exodus 2:18-20
- Exodus 3:1-3
- Exodus 18:3
- Numbers 10:29

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3503, H7467

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:18](#); [3:1](#); [4:18](#); [18:1](#); [18:2](#); [18:5](#); [18:6](#); [18:9](#); [18:10](#); [18:12](#))

Joseph (OT)

Facts:

Joseph was Jacob's eleventh son. He was Rachel's first son. The descendants of his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh became two of the tribes of Israel.

- The Hebrew name Joseph is similar to both the Hebrew word meaning "to add, increase" and the Hebrew word meaning "to gather, take away."
- A large portion of the book of Genesis is dedicated to the story of Joseph, how he remained faithful to God throughout his many difficulties and forgave his brothers who had sold him to be a slave in Egypt.
- Eventually God raised Joseph to the second highest place of power in Egypt and used him to save the people of Egypt and the surrounding nations in a time when there was little food. Joseph helped save his own family from starving and brought them to live with him in Egypt.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, Ephraim, Manasseh, [Jacob](#), Rachel)

Bible References:

- Genesis 30:22-24
- Genesis 33:1-3
- Genesis 37:1-2
- Genesis 37:23-24
- Genesis 41:55-57
- John 4:4-5

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **8:2 Joseph's** brothers hated him because their father loved him most and because Joseph had dreamed that he would be their ruler.
- **8:4** The slave traders took **Joseph** to Egypt.
- **8:5** Even in prison, **Joseph** remained faithful to God, and God blessed him.
- **8:7** God had given **Joseph** the ability to interpret dreams, so Pharaoh had Joseph brought to him from the prison.
- **8:9 Joseph** told the people to store up large amounts of food during the seven years of good harvests.
- **9:2** The Egyptians no longer remembered **Joseph** and all he had done to help them.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3084, H3130, G25000, G25010

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:5](#); [1:6](#); [1:8](#); [13:19](#))

Joshua

Facts:

There were several Israelite men named Joshua in the Bible. The most well-known is Joshua son of Nun who was Moses' helper and who later became an important leader of God's people.

- Joshua was one of the twelve spies whom Moses sent to explore the Promised Land.
- Along with Caleb, Joshua urged the Israelite people to obey God's command to enter the Promised Land and defeat the Canaanites.
- Many years later, after Moses died, God appointed Joshua to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land.
- In the first and most famous battle against the Canaanites, Joshua led the Israelites to defeat the city of Jericho.
- The Old Testament book of Joshua tells how Joshua led the Israelites in taking control of the Promised Land and how he assigned each tribe of Israel a part of the land to live on.
- Joshua son of Jozadak is mentioned in the books of Haggai and Zechariah; he was a high priest who helped rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- There are several other men named Joshua mentioned in the genealogies and elsewhere in the Bible.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Canaan](#), [Haggai](#), [Jericho](#), [Moses](#), [Promised Land](#), [Zechariah \(OT\)](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 7:25-27
- Deuteronomy 3:21
- Exodus 17:10
- Joshua 1:3
- Numbers 27:19

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **14:4** When the Israelites reached the edge of Canaan, Moses chose twelve men, one from each tribe of Israel. He gave the men instructions to go and spy on the land to see what it was like.
- **14:6** Immediately Caleb and **Joshua**, the other two spies, said, "It is true that the people of Canaan are tall and strong, but we can certainly defeat them!"
- **14:8** "Except for **Joshua** and Caleb, everyone who is twenty years old or older will die there and never enter the Promised Land."
- **14:14** Moses was now very old, so God chose **Joshua** to help him lead the people.
- **14:15** **Joshua** was a good leader because he trusted and obeyed God.
- **15:3** After the people crossed the Jordan River, God told **Joshua** how to attack the powerful city of Jericho.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3091, G24240

(Go back to: [Exodus 17:9](#); [17:10](#); [17:13](#); [17:14](#); [24:13](#); [32:17](#); [33:11](#))

joy, joyful, rejoice, glad

Definition:

joy

The term “joy” refers to a feeling of delight or deep satisfaction. The related term “joyful” describes a person who feels very glad and is full of deep happiness.

- A person feels joy when he has a deep sense that what he is experiencing is very good.
- God is the one who gives true joy to people.
- Having joy does not depend on pleasant circumstances. God can give people joy even when very difficult things are happening in their lives.
- Sometimes places are described as joyful, such as houses or cities. This means that the people who live there are joyful.

rejoice

The term “rejoice” means to be full of joy and gladness.

- This term often refers to being very happy about the good things that God has done.
- It could be translated as “be very happy” or “be very glad” or “be full of joy.”
- When Mary said “my soul rejoices in God my Savior,” she meant “God my Savior has made me very happy” or “I feel so joyful because of what God my Savior has done for me.”

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “joy” could also be translated as “gladness” or “delight” or “great happiness.”
- The phrase, “be joyful” could be translated as “rejoice” or “be very glad” or it could be translated “be very happy in God’s goodness.”
- A person who is joyful could be described as “very happy” or “delighted” or “deeply glad.”
- A phrase such as “make a joyful shout” could be translated as “shout in a way that shows you are very happy.”
- A “joyful city” or “joyful house” could be translated as “city where joyful people live” or “house full of joyful people” or “city whose people are very happy.” (See: [metonymy](#))

Bible References:

- Nehemiah 8:10
- Psalm 48:2
- Isaiah 56:6-7
- Jeremiah 15:15-16
- Matthew 2:9-10
- Luke 15:7
- Luke 19:37-38
- John 3:29
- Acts 16:32-34
- Romans 5:1-2
- Romans 15:30-32
- Galatians 5:23
- Philippians 4:10-13

- 1 Thessalonians 1:6-7
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16
- Philemon 1:4-7
- James 1:2
- 3 John 1:1-4

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **33:7** "The rocky ground is a person who hears God's word and accepts it with **joy**."
- **34:4** "The kingdom of God is also like hidden treasure that someone hid in a field.. Another man found the treasure and then buried it again. He was so filled with **joy**, that he went and sold everything he had and used the money to buy that field."
- **41:7** The women were full of fear and great **joy**. They ran to tell the disciples the good news.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1523, H1524, H1525, H2302, H2304, H2305, H2654, H2898, H4885, H5937, H5947, H5965, H5970, H6342, H6670, H7440, H7442, H7444, H7445, H7797, H7832, H8055, H8056, H8057, H8342, H8643, G00200, G00210, G21650, G21670, G27440, G46400, G47960, G49130, G54630, G54790

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:14](#); [18:9](#))

Judah

Facts:

Judah was Jacob's fourth son. He was Leah's fourth son. His descendants became one of the tribes of Israel.

- The tribe descended from him was known as the "tribe of Judah" or "Judah."
- His name sounds similar to the Hebrew word meaning "praise."
- The tribe of Judah settled in the southern part of Canaan, including the mountainous area to the south of the city of Jerusalem. When used as the name of a region of land, the term "Judah" refers to the land given to the tribe of Judah.
- In the Old Testament, the name Judah is sometimes used to refer to the whole southern kingdom of Israel (similar to how the name Ephraim is sometimes used to refer to the whole northern kingdom).
- King David, King Solomon, and all the kings of the southern kingdom were descendants of Judah. Jesus, too, was a descendant of Judah.
- The words "Jew" and "Judea" come from the name "Judah."

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, Judah (kingdom), Jew, [Judea](#), [Jacob](#), Leah)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 2:1-2
- 1 Kings 1:9
- Genesis 29:35
- Genesis 38:2
- Luke 3:33
- Ruth 1:2

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3063

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:2](#); [31:2](#); [38:22](#))

Judea, Judah

Facts:

The term "Judea" refers to an area of land in ancient Israel. It is sometimes used in a narrow sense and other times in a broad sense.

- Sometimes "Judea" is used in a narrow sense to refer only to the province located in the southern part of ancient Israel just west of the Dead Sea. Some translations call this province "Judah."
- Other times "Judea" has a broad sense and refers to all the provinces of ancient Israel, including Galilee, Samaria, Perea, Idumea and Judea (Judah).
- If translators want to make the distinction clear, the broad sense of Judea could be translated as "Judea Country" and the narrow sense could be translated as "Judea Province," or "Judah Province" since this is the part of ancient Israel where the tribe of Judah had originally lived.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: Galilee, [Edom](#), [Judah](#), Judah, Samaria)

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 2:14
- Acts 2:9
- Acts 9:32
- Acts 12:19
- John 3:22-24
- Luke 1:5
- Luke 4:44
- Luke 5:17
- Mark 10:1-4
- Matthew 2:1
- Matthew 2:5
- Matthew 2:22-23
- Matthew 3:1-3
- Matthew 19:1

Word Data:

- Strong's: G24530

(Go back to: [Exodus 35:30](#))

judge, judgment

Definition:

The terms “judge” and “judgment” often refer to making a decision about whether or not something is good, wise, or right. However, these terms can also refer to actions performed by a person as the result of a decision, usually in the context of deciding that something is bad, wrong, or evil.

- The terms “judge” and “judgment” can also mean “to cause harm to” (usually because God has decided a person or nation’s actions are wicked).
- The “judgment of God” often refers to his decision to condemn something or someone as sinful.
- God’s judgment usually includes punishing people for their sin.
- The term “judge” can also mean “condemn.” God instructs his people not to judge each other in this way.
- Another meaning is “arbitrate between” or “judge between,” as in deciding which person is right in a dispute between them.
- In some contexts, God’s “judgments” are what he has decided is right and just. They are similar to his decrees, laws, or precepts.
- “Judgment” can refer to wise decision-making ability. A person who lacks “judgment” does not have the wisdom to make wise decisions.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, ways to translate to “judge” could include to “decide” or to “condemn” or to “punish” or to “decree.”
- The term “judgment” could be translated as “punishment” or “decision” or “verdict” or “decree” or “condemnation.”
- In some contexts, the phrase “in the judgment” could also be translated as “on judgment day” or “during the time when God judges people.”

(See also: decree, judge, judgment day, [just](#), [law](#), [law](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 4:17
- 1 Kings 3:9
- Acts 10:42-43
- Isaiah 3:14
- James 2:4
- Luke 6:37
- Micah 3:9-11
- Psalm 54:1

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **19:16** The prophets warned the people that if they did not stop doing evil and start obeying God, then God would **judge** them as guilty, and he would punish them.
- **21:8** A king is someone who rules over a kingdom and **judges** the people. The Messiah would come would be the perfect king who would sit on the throne of his ancestor David. He would reign over the whole world forever, and who would always **judge** honestly and make the right decisions.
- **39:4** The high priest tore his clothes in anger and shouted to the other religious leaders, “We do not need any more witnesses! You have heard him say that he is the Son of God. What is your **judgment**?”

- **50:14** But God will **judge** everyone who does not believe in Jesus. He will throw them into hell, where they will weep and grind their teeth in anguish forever.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0148, H0430, H1777, H1778, H1779, H1780, H1781, H1782, H2940, H4055, H4941, H6414, H6415, H6416, H6417, H6419, H6485, H8196, H8199, H8201, G01440, G03500, G09680, G11060, G12520, G13410, G13450, G13480, G13490, G29170, G29190, G29200, G29220, G29230, G42320

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:14](#); [5:21](#); [6:6](#); [7:4](#); [12:12](#); [18:13](#); [18:16](#); [18:22](#); [18:26](#); [21:22](#); [28:15](#); [28:29](#); [28:30](#))

just, justice, unjust, injustice, justify, justification

Definition:

“Just” and “justice” refer to treating people fairly according to God’s laws. Human laws that reflect God’s standard of right behavior toward others are also just.

- To be “just” is to act in a fair and right way toward others. It also implies honesty and integrity to do what is morally right in God’s eyes.
- To act “justly” means to treat people in a way that is right, good, and proper according to God’s laws.
- To receive “justice” means to be treated fairly under the law, either being protected by the law or being punished for breaking the law.
- Sometimes the term “just” has the broader meaning of “righteous” or “following God’s laws.”

The terms “unjust” and “unjustly” refer to treating people in an unfair and often harmful manner.

- An “injustice” is something bad that is done to someone that the person did not deserve. It refers to treating people unfairly.
- Injustice also means that some people are treated badly while others are treated well.
- Someone who is acting in an unjust way is being “partial” or “prejudiced” because he is not treating people equally.

The terms “justify” and “justification” refer to causing a guilty person to be righteous. Only God can truly justify people.

- When God justifies people, he forgives their sins and makes it as though they have no sin. He justifies sinners who repent and trust in Jesus to save them from their sins.
- “Justification” refers to what God does when he forgives a person’s sins and declares that person to be righteous in his sight.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, other ways to translate “just” could include “morally right” or “fair.”
- The term “justice” could be translated as “fair treatment” or “deserved consequences.”
- To “act justly” could be translated as “treat fairly” or “behave in a just way.”
- In some contexts, “just” could be translated as “righteous” or “upright.”
- Depending on the context, “unjust” could also be translated as “unfair” or “partial” or “unrighteous.”
- The phrase “the unjust” could be translated as “the unjust ones” or “unjust people” or “people who treat others unfairly” or “unrighteous people” or “people who disobey God.”
- The term “unjustly” could be translated as “in an unfair manner” or “wrongly” or “unfairly.”
- Ways to translate “injustice” could include, “wrong treatment” or “unfair treatment” or “acting unfairly.” (See: [abstractnouns](#))
- Other ways to translate “justify” could include “declare (someone) to be righteous” or “cause (someone) to be righteous.”
- The term “justification” could be translated as “being declared righteous” or “becoming righteous” or “causing people to be righteous.”
- The phrase “resulting in justification” could be translated as “so that God justified many people” or “which resulted in God causing people to be righteous.”
- The phrase “for our justification” could be translated as “in order that we could be made righteous by God.”

(See also: [forgive](#), [guilt](#), [judge](#), [righteous](#), [righteous](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 44:16
- 1 Chronicles 18:14
- Isaiah 4:3-4
- Jeremiah 22:3
- Ezekiel 18:16-17
- Micah 3:8
- Matthew 5:43-45
- Matthew 11:19
- Matthew 23:23-24
- Luke 18:3
- Luke 18:8
- Luke 18:13-14
- Luke 21:20-22
- Luke 23:41
- Acts 13:38-39
- Acts 28:4
- Romans 4:1-3
- Galatians 3:6-9
- Galatians 3:11
- Galatians 5:3-4
- Titus 3:6-7
- Hebrews 6:10
- James 2:24
- Revelation 15:3-4

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **17:9** David ruled with **justice** and faithfulness for many years, and God blessed him.
- **18:13** Some of these kings (of Judah) were good men who ruled **justly** and worshiped God.
- **19:16** They (the prophets) all told the people to stop worshiping idols and to start showing **justice** and mercy to others.
- **50:17** Jesus will rule his kingdom with peace and **justice**, and he will be with his people forever.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0205, H2555, H3477, H4941, H5765, H5766, H5767, H6662, H6663, H6664, H6666, H8003, H8264, H8636, G00910, G00930, G00940, G13420, G13440, G13450, G13460, G13470, G17380

(Go back to: [Exodus 23:6; 23:7](#))

king, kingship

Definition:

In the Bible, the term “king” refers to a man who is the supreme ruler of a particular group of people or a particular region of land (or both).

- In biblical times, a king was usually chosen to rule on the basis of family relation to the previous king(s). When a king died, usually his oldest son became the next king.
- The Bible often refers to God as a king who rules over the entire universe (in a general sense) and over his people (in a specific sense).
- The New Testament refers to Jesus as a king in various ways, including: “king of the Jews;” “king of Israel;” and “king of kings.”
- Depending on the context, the term “king” might also be translated as “supreme chief” or “sovereign ruler.”
- The phrase “king of kings” might be translated as “king who rules over all other kings” or “supreme ruler who has authority over all other rulers.”

(See also: [authority](#), Herod Antipas, [kingdom](#), kingdom of God)

Bible References:

- 1 Timothy 6:15-16
- 2 Kings 5:18
- 2 Samuel 5:3
- Acts 7:9-10
- Acts 13:22
- John 1:49-51
- Luke 1:5
- Luke 22:24-25
- Matthew 5:35
- Matthew 14:9

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **8:6** One night, the Pharaoh, which is what the Egyptians called their kings, had two dreams that disturbed him greatly.
- **16:1** The Israelites had no **king**, so everyone did what they thought was right for them.
- **16:18** Finally, the people asked God for a **king** like all the other nations had.
- **17:5** Eventually, Saul died in battle, and David became **king** of Israel. He was a good **king**, and the people loved him.
- **21:6** God’s prophets also said that the Messiah would be a prophet, a priest, and a **king**.
- **48:14** David was the **king** of Israel, but Jesus is the **king** of the entire universe!

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H4427, H4428, H4430, G09350, G09360

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:8](#); [1:15](#); [1:17](#); [1:18](#); [2:23](#); [3:18](#); [3:19](#); [5:4](#); [6:11](#); [6:13](#); [6:27](#); [6:29](#); [14:5](#); [14:8](#))

kingdom

Definition:

A kingdom is a group of people ruled by a king. It also refers to the realm or political regions over which a king or other ruler has control and authority.

- A kingdom can be of any geographical size. A king might govern a nation or country or only one city.
- The term “kingdom” can also refer to a spiritual reign or authority, as in the term “kingdom of God.”
- God is the ruler of all creation, but the term “kingdom of God” especially refers to his reign and authority over the people who have believed in Jesus and who have submitted to his authority.
- The Bible also talks about Satan having a “kingdom” in which he temporarily rules over many things on this earth. His kingdom is evil and is referred to as “darkness.”

Translation Suggestions:

- When referring to a physical region that is ruled over by a king, the term “kingdom” could be translated as “country (ruled by a king)” or “king’s territory” or “region ruled by a king.”
- In a spiritual sense, “kingdom” could be translated as “ruling” or “reigning” or “controlling” or “governing.”
- One way to translate “kingdom of priests” might be “spiritual priests who are ruled by God.”
- The phrase “kingdom of light” could be translated as “God’s reign that is good like light” or “when God, who is light, rules people” or “the light and goodness of God’s kingdom.” It is best to keep the word “light” in this expression since that is a very important term in the Bible.
- Note that the term “kingdom” is different from an empire, in which an emperor rules over several countries.

(See also: [authority](#), [king](#), kingdom of God, kingdom of Israel, [Judah](#), Judah, [priest](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 2:12
- 2 Timothy 4:17-18
- Colossians 1:13-14
- John 18:36
- Mark 3:24
- Matthew 4:7-9
- Matthew 13:19
- Matthew 16:28
- Revelation 1:9

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **13:2** God said to Moses and the people of Israel, “If you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my prized possession, a **kingdom** of priests, and a holy nation.”
- **18:4** God was angry with Solomon and, as a punishment for Solomon’s unfaithfulness, he promised to divide the nation of Israel in two **kingdoms** after Solomon’s death.
- **18:7** Ten of the tribes of the nation of Israel rebelled against Rehoboam. Only two tribes remained faithful to him. These two tribes became the **kingdom** of Judah.
- **18:8** The other ten tribes of the nation of Israel that rebelled against Rehoboam appointed a man named Jeroboam to be their king. They set up their **kingdom** in the northern part of the land and were called the **kingdom** of Israel.
- **21:8** A king is someone who rules over a **kingdom** and judges the people.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4410, H4437, H4438, H4467, H4468, H4474, H4475, G09320

(Go back to: [Exodus 19:6](#))

kiss

Definition:

A kiss is an action in which one person puts his lips to another person's lips or face. This term can also be used figuratively.

- Some cultures kiss each other on the cheek as a form of greeting or to say goodbye.
- A kiss can communicate deep love between two people, such as a husband and wife.
- The expression to "kiss someone farewell" means to say goodbye with a kiss.
- Sometimes the word "kiss" is used to mean "say goodbye to." When Elisha said to Elijah, "Let me first go and kiss my father and mother," he wanted to say goodbye to his parents before leaving them to follow Elijah.

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:25-28
- Genesis 27:26-27
- Genesis 29:11
- Genesis 31:28
- Genesis 45:15
- Genesis 48:10
- Luke 22:48
- Mark 14:45
- Matthew 26:48

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5390, H5401, G27050, G53680, G53700

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:27](#); [18:7](#))

know, knowledge, unknown, distinguish

Definition:

The term “know” and “knowledge” means generally to understand something or someone. It can also mean to be aware of a fact or to be familiar with a person. The expression “to make known” means to tell information.

- The term “knowledge” refers to information that people know. It can apply to knowing physical concepts or abstract concepts.
- To “know about” God means to understand facts about him because of what he has revealed to us.
- To “know” God means to have a relationship with him. This also applies to knowing people.
- To know God’s will means to be aware of what he has commanded, or to understand what he wants a person to do.
- To “know the Law” means to be aware of what God has commanded or to understand what God has instructed in the laws he gave to Moses.
- Sometimes “knowledge” is used as a synonym for “wisdom,” which includes living in a way that is pleasing to God.
- The “knowledge of God” is sometimes used as a synonym for the “fear of Yahweh.”
- When used of a man and a woman to “know” is often an euphemism that refers to having sexual intercourse.

Translation Suggestions

- Depending on the context, ways to translate “know” could include “understand” or “be familiar with” or “be aware of” or “be acquainted with” or “be in relationship with.”
- In the context of understanding the difference between two things, the term is usually translated as “distinguish.” When used in this way, the term is often followed by the preposition “between.”
- Some languages have two different words for “know,” one for knowing facts and one for knowing a person and having a relationship with him.
- The term “make known” could be translated as “cause people to know” or “reveal” or “tell about” or “explain.”
- To “know about” something could be translated as “be aware of” or “be familiar with.”
- The expression “know how to” means to understand the process or method of getting something done. It could also be translated as “be able to” or “have the skill to.”
- The term “knowledge” could also be translated as “what is known” or “wisdom” or “understanding,” depending on the context.

(See also: [law](#), [reveal](#), [understand](#), [wise](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 2:12-13
- 1 Samuel 17:46
- 2 Corinthians 2:15
- 2 Peter 1:3-4
- Deuteronomy 4:39-40
- Genesis 19:5
- Luke 1:77

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1843, H1844, H1847, H1875, H3045, H3046, H4093, H4486, H5046, H5234, H5475, H5869, G00500, G00560, G10970, G11070, G11080, G14920, G19210, G19220, G19870, G24670, G25890, G42670, G48940

(Go back to: Exodus 1:8; 2:4; 2:14; 2:25; 3:7; 3:19; 4:14; 5:2; 6:3; 6:7; 7:5; 7:17; 8:10; 8:22; 9:14; 9:29; 9:30; 10:2; 10:7; 10:26; 11:7; 14:4; 14:18; 16:6; 16:12; 16:15; 18:11; 18:16; 18:20; 21:36; 23:9; 29:46; 31:3; 31:13; 32:1; 32:22; 32:23; 33:5; 33:12; 33:13; 33:16; 33:17; 34:29; 35:31; 36:1)

Korah, Korahite

Definition:

Korah was the name of three men in the Old Testament.

Korah was a descendant of Levi and so served in the tabernacle as a priest. He became jealous of Moses and Aaron and led a group of men to rebel against them.

One of the sons of Esau was named Korah. He became a leader in his community.

A third man named Korah is listed as a descendant of Judah.

(See also: [Aaron](#), [authority](#), [Caleb](#), [descendant](#), [Esau](#), [Judah](#), [priest](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 1:34-37
- Numbers 16:1-3
- Numbers 16:25-27
- Psalm 42:1-2

Word Data:

- Strong's: H7141

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:21](#); [6:24](#))

labor, laborer, work, hard work

Definition:

The term "labor" refers to doing hard work of any kind.

- In general, labor is any task which uses energy. It is often implied that the task is difficult.
- A laborer is a person who does any type of labor.
- In English, the word "labor" is also used for part of the process of giving birth. Other languages may have a completely different word for this.
- Ways to translate "labor" could include "work" or "hard work" or "difficult work" or to "work hard."

(See also: [hard](#), labor pains)

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 2:9
- 1 Thessalonians 3:5
- Galatians 4:10-11
- James 5:4
- John 4:38
- Luke 10:2
- Matthew 10:10

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3018, H3021, H3022, H3205, H4522, H4639, H5447, H5450, H5647, H5656, H5998, H5999, H6001, H6089, H6468, H6635, G00750, G20380, G20400, G20410, G28720, G28730, G48660, G49040

(Go back to: [Exodus 5:13](#); [5:18](#); [18:20](#); [20:9](#); [23:16](#); [34:21](#))

lamb, Lamb of God

Definition:

The term “lamb” refers to a young sheep. Sheep are four-legged animals with thick, woolly hair, used for sacrifices to God. Jesus is called the “Lamb of God” because he was sacrificed to pay for people’s sins.

- These animals are easily led astray and need protecting. God compares human beings to sheep.
- God instructed his people to sacrifice physically perfect sheep and lambs to him.
- Jesus is called the “Lamb of God” who was sacrificed to pay for people’s sins. He was a perfect, unblemished sacrifice because he was completely without sin.

Translation Suggestions:

- If sheep are known in the language area, the name for their young should be used to translate the terms “lamb” and “Lamb of God.”
- “Lamb of God” could be translated as “God’s (sacrificial) Lamb,” or “Lamb sacrificed to God” or “(sacrificial) Lamb from God.”
- If sheep are not known, this term could be translated as “a young sheep” with a footnote that describes what sheep are like. The note could also compare sheep and lambs to an animal from that area that lives in herds, that is timid and defenseless, and that often wanders away.
- Also consider how this term is translated in a Bible translation of a nearby local or national language.

(See: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: [sheep](#), [shepherd](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Samuel 12:3
- Ezra 8:35-36
- Isaiah 66:3
- Jeremiah 11:19
- John 1:29
- John 1:36
- Leviticus 14:21-23
- Leviticus 17:1-4
- Luke 10:3
- Revelation 15:3-4

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **5:7** As Abraham and Isaac walked to the place of the sacrifice Isaac asked, “Father, we have wood for the sacrifice, but where is the **lamb**?”
- **11:2** God provided a way to save the firstborn son of anyone who believed in him. Each family had to choose a perfect **lamb** or goat and kill it.
- **24:6** The next day, Jesus came to be baptized by John. When John saw him, he said, “Look! There is the **Lamb of God** who will take away the sin of the world.”
- **45:8** He read, “They led him like a **lamb** to be killed, and as a **lamb** is silent, he did not say a word.”
- **48:8** When God told Abraham to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice, God provided a **lamb** for the sacrifice instead of his son, Isaac. We all deserve to die for our sins! But God provided Jesus, the **Lamb** of God, as a sacrifice to die in our place.

- **48:9** When God sent the last plague on Egypt, he told each Israelite family to kill a perfect **lamb** and spread its blood around the tops and sides of their door frames.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H7716, G07210, G23160

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:3](#); [12:4](#); [12:5](#); [12:21](#); [13:13](#); [29:38](#); [29:39](#); [29:40](#); [29:41](#); [34:20](#))

lamp

Definition:

The term “lamp” generally refers to something that produces light. The lamps used in Bible times were usually oil lamps.

The type of lamp that was used in Bible times is a small container with a fuel source, usually oil, that gives light when it burns.

- An ordinary oil lamp usually consisted of a common piece of pottery filled with olive oil, with a wick placed in the oil to burn.
- For some lamps, the pot or jar was oval, with one end pinched close together to hold the wick.
- An oil lamp could be carried or placed on a stand so that its light could fill a room or house.
- In scripture, lamps are used in several figurative ways as symbols of light and life.

(See also: [lampstand](#), [life](#), [light](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 11:36
- Exodus 25:3-7
- Luke 8:16-18
- Matthew 5:15
- Matthew 6:22
- Matthew 25:3

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3940, H3974, H4501, H5215, H5216, G29850, G30880

(Go back to: [Exodus 30:7](#); [30:8](#); [35:14](#); [39:37](#))

lampstand

Definition:

In the Bible, the term “lampstand” refers to a structure on which a lamp is placed in order to provide light to a room.

- The lampstand would be tall enough so that the light of the lamp could shine throughout the room.
- The lampstand could be made of wood or metal and could hold one or more lamps.
- Ordinary lamps were made of clay, and lamps for special purposes, such as for the temple, were made of metal (such as bronze, silver, or gold.)
- The lamps were in the shape of a bowl with a raised lip on one side that held a wick. The lamps were filled with olive oil that soaked the wick and burned when the wick was lighted.
- In the Jerusalem temple there was a special gold lampstand that had seven branches for holding seven lamps.

Translation Suggestions

- This term could be also translated as “lamp pedestal” or “structure for holding a lamp” or “lamp holder.”
- For the temple lampstand, this could be translated as “seven-lamp lampstand” or “gold pedestal with seven lamps.”
- It would also be helpful in a translation to include pictures of a simple lampstand and a seven-branch lampstand in the relevant Bible passages.

(See also: [bronze](#), [gold](#), [lamp](#), [light](#), [silver](#), [temple](#))

Bible References:

- Daniel 5:5-6
- Exodus 37:17
- Mark 4:21-23
- Matthew 5:15-16
- Revelation 1:12-13
- Revelation 1:20

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4501, G30870

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:31](#); [25:32](#); [25:33](#); [25:34](#); [25:35](#); [26:35](#); [30:27](#); [31:8](#); [35:14](#); [37:17](#); [37:18](#); [37:19](#); [37:20](#); [39:37](#); [40:4](#); [40:24](#))

law, law of Moses, law of Yahweh, law of God

Definition:

Most simply, the term “law” refers to a rule or instruction that should be followed. In the Bible, the term “law” is often used generally to refer to anything and everything God wants his people to obey and do. The specific term “law of Moses” refers to the commandments and instructions that God gave Moses for the Israelites to obey.

- Depending on the context, the “law” can refer to:
 - the Ten Commandments that God wrote on stone tablets for the Israelites
 - all the laws given to Moses
 - the first five books of the Old Testament
 - the entire Old Testament (also referred to as “scriptures” in the New Testament).
 - all of God’s instructions and will
- The phrase “the Law and the Prophets” is used in the New Testament to refer to the Hebrew scriptures (or “Old Testament”)

Translation Suggestions:

- These terms could be translated using the plural, “laws,” since they refer to many instructions.
- The term “law of Moses” could be translated as “the laws that God told Moses to give to the Israelites.”
- Depending on the context, “the law of Moses” could also be translated as “the law that God told to Moses” or “God’s laws that Moses wrote down” or “the laws that God told Moses to give to the Israelites.”
- Ways to translate “the law” or “law of God” or “God’s laws” could include “laws from God” or “God’s commands” or “laws that God gave” or “everything that God commands” or “all of God’s instructions.”
- The phrase “law of Yahweh” could also be translated as “Yahweh’s laws” or “laws that Yahweh said to obey” or “laws from Yahweh” or “things Yahweh commanded.”

(See also: [instruct](#), [Moses](#), Ten Commandments, lawful, [Yahweh](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 15:6
- Daniel 9:13
- Exodus 28:42-43
- Ezra 7:25-26
- Galatians 2:15
- Luke 24:44
- Matthew 5:18
- Nehemiah 10:29
- Romans 3:20

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **13:7** God also gave many other **laws** and rules to follow. If the people obeyed these **laws**, God promised that he would bless and protect them. If they disobeyed them, God would punish them.
- **13:9** Anyone who disobeyed **God’s law** could bring an animal to the altar in front of the Tent of Meeting as a sacrifice to God.
- **15:13** Then Joshua reminded the people of their obligation to obey the covenant that God had made with the Israelites at Sinai. The people promised to remain faithful to God and follow **his laws**.
- **16:1** After Joshua died, the Israelites disobeyed God and did not drive out the rest of the Canaanites or obey **God’s laws**.

- **21:5** In the New Covenant, God would write **his law** on the people's hearts, the people would know God personally, they would be his people, and God would forgive their sins.
- **27:1** Jesus answered, "What is written in **God's law**?"
- **28:1** Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me 'good?' There is only one who is good, and that is God. But if you want to have eternal life, obey **God's laws**."

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0430, H1881, H1882, H2706, H2710, H3068, H4687, H4872, H4941, H8451, G23160, G35510, G35650

(Go back to: [Introduction to Exodus](#); [Exodus 12:49](#); [13:9](#); [Notes](#); [16:4](#); [18:20](#); [Notes](#); [Notes](#))

law, principle

Definition:

A “law” is a legal rule that is usually written down and enforced by someone in authority. A “principle” is a guideline for decision-making and behavior, and is usually not written down or enforced. However, sometimes the term “law” is used to mean a “principle.”

- A “law” is similar to a “decree,” but the term “law” is generally used to refer to something written rather than spoken.
- Both “law” and “principle” can refer to a general rule or belief that guides a person’s behavior.
- This meaning of “law” is different from its meaning in the term “law of Moses,” where it refers to commands and instructions that God gave the Israelites.
- When a general law is being referred to, “law” could be translated as “principle” or “general rule.”

(See also: [law of Moses](#), decree, [command](#), [declare](#))

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 4:2
- Esther 3:8-9
- Exodus 12:12-14
- Genesis 26:5
- John 18:31
- Romans 7:1

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1285, H1881, H1882, H2706, H2708, H2710, H4687, H4941, H6310, H7560, H8451, G17850, G35480, G35510, G47470

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:26](#); [16:28](#); [18:16](#); [24:12](#))

Levi, Levite

Definition:

Levi was Jacob's third son. He was Leah's third son. His descendants became one of the tribes of Israel.

- The tribe descended from him was known as the "tribe of Levi" or the "Levites."
- The name Levi is similar to the Hebrew word for "join to."
- Unlike the other tribes, the tribe of Levi did not inherit a unified area of land in Canaan. Instead, they inherited various cities scattered throughout the regions belonging to the other tribes.
- The tribe of Levi was responsible for taking care of the tabernacle (and later, the temple) and conducting religious rituals, including offering sacrifices and prayers for the Israelite people.
- In the Old Testament, it is not always clear whether the term "Levite" refers generally to a descendant of Levi or specifically to a person who served in the temple helping the priests.
- The Old Testament law prescribed that all priests were to be chosen from the tribe of Levi. The Levite priests were set apart and dedicated for the special work of serving God in the temple.
- Two other men named "Levi" were ancestors of Jesus. Their names are listed in the genealogy in the gospel of Luke.
- Jesus' disciple Matthew was also called Levi.

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, [priest](#), [sacrifice](#), temple, [Jacob](#), Leah, Matthew)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 2:1-2
- 1 Kings 8:3-5
- Acts 4:36-37
- Genesis 29:34
- John 1:19-21
- Luke 10:32

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3878, H3879, H3881, G30170, G30180, G30190, G30200

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:2](#); [2:1](#); [4:14](#); [6:16](#); [6:19](#); [6:25](#); [32:26](#); [32:28](#); [38:21](#))

life, live, living, alive

Definition:

The term “life” refers to being physically alive as opposed to being physically dead.

1. Physical life

- A “life” can also refer to an individual person as in “a life was saved”.
- Sometimes the word “life” refers to the experience of living as in, “his life was enjoyable.”
- It can also refer to a person’s lifespan, as in the expression, “the end of his life.”
- The term “living” may refer to being physically alive, as in “my mother is still living.” It may also refer to dwelling somewhere as in, “they were living in the city.”
- In the Bible, the concept of “life” is often contrasted with the concept of “death.”

2. Eternal life

- A person has eternal life when he believes in Jesus. God gives that person a transformed life with the Holy Spirit living in him.
- The opposite of eternal life is eternal death, which means being separated from God and experiencing eternal punishment.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, “life” can be translated as “existence” or “person” or “soul” or “being” or “experience.”
- The term “live” could be translated by “dwell” or “reside” or “exist.”
- The expression “end of his life” could be translated as “when he stopped living.”
- The expression “spared their lives” could be translated as “allowed them to live” or “did not kill them.”
- The expression “they risked their lives” could be translated as “they put themselves in danger” or “they did something that could have killed them.”
- When the Bible text talks about eternal life, the term “life” could be translated in the following ways: “eternal life” or “God making us alive in our spirits” or “new life by God’s Spirit” or “being made alive in our inner self.”
- Depending on the context, the expression “give life” could also be translated as “cause to live” or “give eternal life” or “cause to live eternally.”

(See also: [death](#), [everlasting](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Peter 1:3
- Acts 10:42
- Genesis 2:7
- Genesis 7:22
- Hebrews 10:20
- Jeremiah 44:2
- John 1:4
- Judges 2:18
- Luke 12:23
- Matthew 7:14

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **1:10** So God took some dirt, formed it into a man, and breathed **life** into him.
- **3:1** After a long time, many people were *_living_* in the world.
- **8:13** When Joseph's brothers returned home and told their father, Jacob, that Joseph was still **alive**, he was very happy.
- **17:9** However, toward the end of his [David's] **life** he sinned terribly before God.
- **27:1** One day, an expert in the Jewish law came to Jesus to test him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal **life**?"
- **35:5** Jesus replied, "I am the Resurrection and the **Life**."
- **44:5** "You are the ones who told the Roman governor to kill Jesus. You killed the author of **life**, but God raised him from the dead."

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1934, H2416, H2417, H2421, H2425, H5315, G01980, G02220, G02270, G08060, G05900

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:5](#); [1:14](#); [1:16](#); [1:17](#); [1:18](#); [1:22](#); [4:18](#); [4:19](#); [6:16](#); [6:18](#); [6:20](#); [19:13](#); [21:23](#); [21:30](#); [21:35](#); [22:4](#); [22:18](#); [30:12](#); [30:15](#); [30:16](#); [33:20](#))

light, luminary, shine, brighten, enlighten

Definition:

The term “light” is used figuratively in various ways in the Bible. Light is often used as a metaphor for wisdom, life, righteousness, truth, or happiness.

- Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” to express that he brings God’s true message to the world and rescues people from the darkness of their sin.
- Christians are commanded to “walk in the light,” which means they should be living the way God wants them to and avoiding evil.
- The apostle John stated that “God is light” and in him there is no darkness at all.
- Jesus said that he was “the light of the world” and that his followers should shine like lights in the world by living in a way that clearly shows how great God is.
- “Walking in the light” represents living in a way that pleases God, doing what is good and right. Walking in darkness represents living in rebellion against God, doing evil things.

Translation Suggestions:

- When translating, it is important to keep the literal terms “light” and “darkness” even when they are used figuratively.
- It may be necessary to explain the comparison in the text. For example, “walk as children of light” could be translated as “live openly righteous lives, like someone who walks in bright sunlight.”
- Make sure that the translation of “light” does not refer to an object that gives light, such as a lamp. The translation of this term should refer to the light itself.

(See also: [darkness](#), [wisdom](#), [life](#), [righteous](#), [true](#), [joy](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 1:7
- 1 John 2:8
- 2 Corinthians 4:6
- Acts 26:18
- Isaiah 2:5
- John 1:5
- Matthew 5:16
- Matthew 6:23
- Nehemiah 9:12-13
- Revelation 18:23-24

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0216, H0217, H3313, H3974, H5051, H5094, H5105, H5216, H7837, G06810, G07960, G16450, G29850, G30880, G53380, G54570, G54580, G54600, G54620

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:23](#); [13:21](#); [14:20](#); [25:37](#))

livestock, animals

Facts:

The term “livestock” refers to animals which are raised to provide food and other useful products. Some types of livestock are also trained as work animals.

- Kinds of livestock include sheep, cattle, goats, horses, and donkeys.
- In Biblical times, wealth was partly measured by how much livestock a person had.
- Livestock are used to produce items such as wool, milk, cheese, housing materials, and clothing.
- This term could also be translated as “farm animals.”

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [cow](#), [ox](#), [donkey](#), [goat](#), [horse](#), [sheep](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 3:15-17
- Genesis 30:29
- Joshua 1:14-15
- Nehemiah 9:36-37
- Numbers 3:41

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0929, H4399, H4735

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:3](#); [9:4](#); [9:6](#); [9:7](#); [9:19](#); [9:20](#); [9:21](#); [10:26](#); [12:38](#); [17:3](#); [20:10](#); [22:5](#); [34:3](#); [34:19](#))

locust

Facts:

The term “locust” refers to a type of large, flying grasshopper that sometimes flies with many other of its kind in a very destructive swarm that eats all vegetation.

- Locusts and other grasshoppers are large, straight-winged insects with long, jointed back legs that give them the ability to jump a long distance way.
- In the Old Testament, swarming locusts were referred to figuratively as a symbol or picture of the overwhelming devastation that would come as a result of Israel's disobedience.
- God sent locusts as one of the ten plagues against the Egyptians.
- The New Testament says that locusts were a main source of food for John the Baptist while he was living in the desert.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [captive](#), [Egypt](#), [Israel](#), [John \(the Baptist\)](#), [plague](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 6:28
- Deuteronomy 28:38-39
- Exodus 10:3-4
- Mark 1:6
- Proverbs 30:27-28

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0697, H1357, H1462, H1501, H2284, H3218, H5556, H6767, G02000

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:4](#); [10:12](#); [10:13](#); [10:14](#); [10:19](#))

loins, waist

Definition:

The term “loins” refers to the part of the body of an animal or person that is between the lower ribs and the hip bones, also known as the lower abdomen.

- The expression “gird up the loins” refers to preparing to work hard. It comes from the custom of tucking the bottom of one’s robe into a belt around the waist in order to move with ease.
- The term “loins” is often used in the Bible to refer to the lower back part of an animal that was sacrificed.
- In the Bible, the term “loins” often refers figuratively and euphemistically to a man’s reproductive organs as the source of his descendants. (See: [euphemism](#))
- The expression “will come from your loins” could also be translated as “will be your offspring” or “will be born from your seed” or “God will cause to come from you.” (See: [euphemism](#))
- When referring to a part of the body, this could also be translated as “abdomen” or “hips” or “waist,” depending on the context.

(See also: [descendant](#), [gird](#), [children](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Peter 1:13
- 2 Chronicles 6:9
- Deuteronomy 33:11
- Genesis 37:34
- Job 15:27

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2504, H3409, H3689, H4975, G37510

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:11](#); [28:42](#))

lord, Lord, master, sir

Definition:

In the Bible, the term “lord” generally refers to someone who has ownership or authority over other people. In the Bible, however, the term is used to address many different kinds of people, including God.

- This word is sometimes translated as “master” when addressing Jesus or when referring to someone who owns slaves.
- Some English versions translate this as “sir” in contexts where someone is politely addressing someone of higher status.

When “Lord” is capitalized, it is a title that refers to God. (Note, however, that when it is used as a form of addressing someone or it occurs at the beginning of a sentence it may be capitalized and have the meaning of “sir” or “master.”)

- In the Old Testament, this term is also used in expressions such as “Lord God Almighty” or “Lord Yahweh” or “Yahweh our Lord.”
- In the New Testament, the apostles used this term in expressions such as “Lord Jesus” and “Lord Jesus Christ,” which communicate that Jesus is God.
- The term “Lord” in the New Testament is also used alone as a direct reference to God, especially in quotations from the Old Testament. For example, the Old Testament text has “Blessed is he who comes in the name of Yahweh” and the New Testament text has “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”
- In the ULT and UST, the title “Lord” is only used to translate the actual Hebrew and Greek words that mean “Lord.” It is never used as a translation of God’s name (Yahweh), as is done in many translations.
- Some languages translate “Lord” as “Master” or “Ruler” or some other term that communicates ownership or supreme rule.
- In the appropriate contexts, many translations capitalize the first letter of this term to make it clear to the reader that this is a title referring to God.
- For places in the New Testament where there is a quote from the Old Testament, the term “Lord God” could be used to make it clear that this is a reference to God.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term can be translated with the equivalent of “master” when it refers to a person who owns slaves. It can also be used by a servant to address the person he works for.
- When it refers to Jesus, if the context shows that the speaker sees him as a religious teacher, it can be translated with a respectful address for a religious teacher, such as “master.”
- If the person addressing Jesus does not know him, “lord” could be translated with a respectful form of address such as “sir.” This translation would also be used for other contexts in which a polite form of address to a man is called for.
- When referring to God the Father or to Jesus, this term is considered a title, written as “Lord” (capitalized) in English.

(See also: [God](#), [Jesus](#), [ruler](#), [Yahweh](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 39:2
- Joshua 3:9-11
- Psalms 86:15-17
- Jeremiah 27:4
- Lamentations 2:2

- Ezekiel 18:29
- Daniel 9:9
- Daniel 9:17-19
- Malachi 3:1
- Matthew 7:21-23
- Luke 1:30-33
- Luke 16:13
- Romans 6:23
- Ephesians 6:9
- Philippians 2:9-11
- Colossians 3:23
- Hebrews 12:14
- James 2:1
- 1 Peter 1:3
- Jude 1:5
- Revelation 15:4

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **25:5** But Jesus replied to Satan by quoting from the Scriptures. He said, "In God's word, he commands his people, 'Do not test the **Lord** your God.'"
- **25:7** Jesus replied, "Get away from me, Satan! In God's word he commands his people, 'Worship only the **Lord** your God and only serve him.'"
- **26:3** This is the year of the **Lord's** favor.
- **27:2** The law expert replied that God's law says, "Love the **Lord** your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind."
- **31:5** Then Peter said to Jesus, "**Master**, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water"
- **43:9** "But know for certain that God has caused Jesus to become both **Lord** and Messiah!"
- **47:3** By means of this demon she predicted the future for people, she made a lot of money for her **masters** as a fortuneteller.
- **47:11** Paul answered, "Believe in Jesus, the **Master**, and you and your family will be saved."

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0113, H0136, H1167, H1376, H4756, H7980, H8323, G02030, G06340, G09620, G12030, G29620

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:10](#); [4:13](#); [5:22](#); [15:17](#); [21:4](#); [21:5](#); [21:6](#); [21:8](#); [21:32](#); [23:17](#); [32:22](#); [34:9](#); [34:23](#))

love, beloved

Definition:

To love another person is to care for that person and do things that will benefit him. There are different meanings for "love" some languages may express using different words:

The kind of love that comes from God is focused on the good of others even when it doesn't benefit oneself. This kind of love cares for others, no matter what they do. God himself is love and is the source of true love.

- Jesus showed this kind of love by sacrificing his life in order to rescue us from sin and death. He also taught his followers to love others sacrificially.
- When people love others with this kind of love, they act in ways that show they are thinking of what will cause the others to thrive. This kind of love especially includes forgiving others.
- In the ULT, the word "love" refers to this kind of sacrificial love, unless a Translation Note indicates a different meaning.

Another word in the New Testament refers to brotherly love, or love for a friend or family member.

- This term refers to natural human love between friends or relatives.
- The term can also be used in such contexts as, "They love to sit in the most important seats at a banquet." This means that they "like very much" or "greatly desire" to do that.

The word "love" can also refer to romantic love between a man and a woman.

Translation Suggestions:

- Unless indicated otherwise in a Translation Note, the word "love" in the ULT refers to the kind of sacrificial love that comes from God.
- Some languages may have a special word for the kind of unselfish, sacrificial love that God has. Ways to translate this might include, "devoted, faithful caring" or "care for unselfishly" or "love from God." Make sure that the word used to translate God's love can include giving up one's own interests to benefit others and loving others no matter what they do.
- Sometimes the English word "love" describes the deep caring that people have for friends and family members. Some languages might translate this with a word or phrase that means "like very much" or "care for" or "have strong affection for."
- In contexts where the word "love" is used to express a strong preference for something, this could be translated by "strongly prefer" or "like very much" or "greatly desire."
- Some languages may also have a separate word that refers to romantic or sexual love between a husband and wife.
- Many languages must express "love" as an action. So for example, they might translate "love is patient, love is kind" as, "when a person loves someone, he is patient with him and kind to him."

(See also: [covenant](#), [death](#), [sacrifice](#), [save](#), [sin](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 13:7
- 1 John 3:2
- 1 Thessalonians 4:10
- Galatians 5:23
- Genesis 29:18
- Isaiah 56:6
- Jeremiah 2:2

- John 3:16
- Matthew 10:37
- Nehemiah 9:32-34
- Philippians 1:9
- Song of Songs 1:2

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **27:2** The law expert replied that God's law says, "**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. And **love** your neighbor as yourself."
- **33:8** "The thorny ground is a person who hears God's word, but, as time passes, the cares, riches, and pleasures of life choke out his **love** for God."
- **36:5** As Peter was talking, a bright cloud came down on top of them and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son whom I **love**."
- **39:10** "Everyone who **loves** the truth listens to me."
- **47:1** She (Lydia) **loved** and worshiped God.
- **48:1** When God created the world, everything was perfect. There was no sin. Adam and Eve **loved** each other, and they **loved** God.
- **49:3** He (Jesus) taught that you need to **love** other people the same way you love yourself.
- **49:4** He (Jesus) also taught that you need to **love** God more than you **love** anything else, including your wealth.
- **49:7** Jesus taught that God **loves** sinners very much.
- **49:9** But God **loved** everyone in the world so much that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in Jesus will not be punished for his sins, but will live with God forever.
- **49:13** God **loves** you and wants you to believe in Jesus so he can have a close relationship with you.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0157, H0158, H0159, H0160, H2245, H2617, H2836, H3039, H4261, H5689, H5690, H5691, H7355, H7356, H7453, H7474, G00250, G00260, G53600, G53610, G53620, G53630, G53650, G53670, G53680, G53690, G53770, G53810, G53820, G53830, G53880

(Go back to: [Exodus 20:6](#); [21:5](#))

magic, magical, magician, who talk with spirits

Definition:

The term “magic” refers to the practice of using supernatural power that does not come from God. A “magician” is someone who practices magic.

- In Egypt, when God did miraculous things through Moses, the Egyptian pharaoh’s magicians were able to do some of the same things, but their power did not come from God.
- Magic often involves casting spells or repeating certain words in order to make something supernatural happen.
- God commands his people to not do any of these practices of magic or divination.
- A sorcerer is a type of magician, usually one who uses magic to do harm to others.

(See also: [divination](#), [Egypt](#), [Pharaoh](#), [power](#), [sorcery](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 41:8
- Genesis 41:22-24
- Genesis 44:3-5
- Genesis 44:15

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2748, H2749, H3049, G30970

(Go back to: [Exodus 7:11](#); [7:22](#); [8:7](#); [8:18](#); [8:19](#); [9:11](#))

majesty

Definition:

The term “majesty” or “majestic” refers to greatness and splendor, often in relation to the qualities of a king.

- In the Bible, “majesty” frequently refers to the greatness of God, who is the supreme King over the universe.
- “Your Majesty” is a way of addressing a king.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could be translated as “kingly greatness” or “royal splendor.”
- “Your Majesty” could be translated as something like “your Highness” or “your Excellency” or using a natural way of addressing a ruler in the target language.

(See also: [king](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Peter 1:16-18
- Daniel 4:36
- Isaiah 2:10
- Jude 1:25
- Micah 5:4

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1347, H1348, H1420, H1923, H1926, H1935, H7238, G31680, G31720

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:6](#); [15:7](#); [15:10](#); [15:11](#))

manna

Definition:

Manna was a white, grain-like food that God provided for the Israelites to eat during the 40 years of living in the wilderness after they left Egypt.

- Manna looked like white flakes which appeared each morning on the ground under the dew. It tasted sweet, like honey.
- The Israelites gathered the manna flakes every day except on the Sabbath.
- On the day before the Sabbath, God told the Israelites to gather twice the amount of manna so they wouldn't have to gather it on their day of rest.
- The word "manna" means "what is it?"
- In the Bible, manna is also referred to as "bread from heaven" and "grain from heaven."

Translation Suggestions

- Other ways to translate this term could include "thin white flakes of food" or "food from heaven."
- Also consider how this term is translated in a Bible translation in a local or national language. (See: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: [bread](#), [desert](#), [grain](#), [heaven](#), [Sabbath](#))

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 8:3
- Exodus 16:27
- Hebrews 9:3-5
- John 6:30-31
- Joshua 5:12

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4478, G31310

(Go back to: [Exodus 16:31](#); [16:33](#); [16:35](#))

melt, melted, molten

Facts:

The term “melt” refers to something becoming liquid when it is heated. It is also used in figurative ways. Something that is melted is described as being “molten.”

- Different kinds of metals are heated until they melt and can be poured into molds in order to make things such as weapons or idols. The expression “molten metal” refers to a metal that is melted.
- As a candle burns, its wax melts and drips. In ancient times, letters were often sealed by pouring a small amount of melted wax on the edges.
- A figurative use of “melt” means to become soft and weak, like melted wax.
- The expression “their hearts will melt” means that they will become very weak because of fear.
- Another figurative expression “they will melt away” means that they will be forced to go away or they will be shown to be weak and will go away in defeat.
- The literal meaning of “melt” could be translated as “become liquid” or “liquefy” or “cause to become liquid.”
- Other ways to translate the figurative meanings of “melt” could include “become soft” or “become weak” or “be defeated.”

(See also: [heart](#), false god, [image](#), seal)

Bible References:

- Psalms 112:10

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2046, H3988, H4127, H4529, H4541, H4549, H5140, H5413, H8557, G30890, G50800

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:15](#))

memorial, memorial offering

Definition:

The term “memorial” refers to an action or object that causes someone or something to be remembered.

- This word is also used as an adjective to describe something that is to remind them of something, as in a “memorial offering,” a “memorial portion” of a sacrifice or “memorial stones.”
- In the Old Testament memorial offerings were made so the Israelites would remember what God had done for them.
- God told the Israelite priests to wear special clothing that had memorial stones. These stones had the names of the twelve tribes of Israel engraved on them. These were perhaps to remind them of God’s faithfulness to them.
- In the New Testament, God honored a man named Cornelius because of his charitable deeds for the poor. These deeds were said to be a “memorial” before God.

Translation Suggestions:

- This could also be translated as “lasting reminder.”
- A “memorial stone” could be translated as a “stone to remind them (of something).”

Bible References:

- Acts 10:4
- Exodus 12:12-14
- Isaiah 66:3
- Joshua 4:6-7
- Leviticus 23:23-25

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2142, H2146, G34220

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:14](#); [13:9](#))

messenger

Facts:

The term “messenger” refers to someone who is given a message to tell others.

- In ancient times, a messenger would be sent from the battlefield to tell people back in the city what was happening.
- An angel is a special kind of messenger whom God sends to give people messages. Some translations translate “angel” as “messenger.”
- John the Baptist was called a messenger who came before Jesus to announce the Messiah’s coming and to prepare people to receive him.
- Jesus’ apostles were his messengers to go share with other people the good news about the kingdom of God.

(See also: [angel](#), apostle, John (the Baptist))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 19:1-3
- 1 Samuel 6:21
- 2 Kings 1:1-2
- Luke 7:27
- Matthew 11:10

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1319, H4397, H4398, H5046, H5894, H6735, H6737, H7323, H7971, G00320, G06520

(Go back to: [Exodus 14:19](#))

Midian, Midianite

Facts:

Midian was a son of Abraham and his wife Keturah. It is also the name of a people group and region located in the northern Arabian Desert to the south of the land of Canaan. The people of that group were called "Midianites."

- When Moses first left Egypt, he went to the region of Midian where he met the daughters of Jethro and helped them water their flocks. Later Moses married one of Jethro's daughters.
- Joseph was taken to Egypt by a group of Midianite slave traders.
- Many years later the Midianites attacked and raided the Israelites in the land of Canaan. Gideon led the Israelites in defeating them.
- Many of the modern-day Arabian tribes are descendants of this group.

(See also Arabia, [Egypt](#), [flock](#), Gideon, [Jethro](#), [Moses](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 7:30
- Exodus 2:16
- Genesis 25:1-4
- Genesis 36:34-36
- Genesis 37:28
- Judges 7:1

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **16:3** But then the people forgot about God and started worshiping idols again. So God allowed the **Midianites**, a nearby enemy people group, to defeat them.
- **16:4** The Israelites were so scared, they hid in caves so the **Midianites** would not find them.
- **16:11** The man's friend said, "This dream means that Gideon's army will defeat the **Midianite** army!"
- **16:14** God confused the **Midianites**, so that they started attacking and killing each other.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4080, H4084, H4092

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:15](#); [2:16](#); [3:1](#); [4:19](#); [18:1](#))

might, mighty, mighty works

Definition:

The terms “mighty” and “might” refer to having great strength or power.

- Often the word “might” is another word for “strength.” When talking about God, it can mean “power.”
- The phrase “mighty men” often refers to men who are courageous and victorious in battle. David’s band of faithful men who helped protect and defend him were often called “mighty men.”
- God is also referred to as the “mighty one.”
- The phrase “mighty works” usually refers to the amazing things God does, especially miracles.
- This term is related to the term “almighty,” which is a common description for God, meaning that he has complete power.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term “mighty” could be translated as “powerful” or “amazing” or “very strong.”
- The phrase “his might” could be translated as “his strength” or “his power.”
- In Acts 7, Moses is described as a man who was “mighty in word and deed.” This could be translated as “Moses spoke powerful words from God and did miraculous things” or “Moses spoke God’s word powerfully and did many amazing things.”
- Depending on the context, “mighty works” could be translated as “amazing things that God does” or “miracles” or “God doing things with power.”
- The term “might” could also be translated as “power” or “great strength.”
- Do not confuse this term with the English word that is used to express a possibility, as in “It might rain.”

(See also: [Almighty](#), [miracle](#), [power](#), [strength](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 7:22
- Genesis 6:4
- Mark 9:38-39
- Matthew 11:23

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0046, H0047, H0117, H0202, H0386, H0410, H0430, H0533, H0650, H1219, H1368, H1369, H1396, H1397, H1419, H2220, H2389, H2428, H3201, H3524, H3581, H3966, H4101, H5794, H5797, H6099, H6105, H6108, H6184, H7227, H7580, H8623, H8624, G14110, G14150, G14980, G24780, G24790, G29000, G29040, G31670, G31730

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:7](#); [1:9](#); [1:20](#))

miracle, wonder, sign

Definition:

A “miracle” is something amazing that is not possible unless God causes it to happen.

- Examples of miracles that Jesus did include calming a storm and healing a blind man.
- Miracles are sometimes called “wonders” because they cause people to be filled with wonder or amazement.
- The term “wonder” can also refer more generally to amazing displays of God’s power, such as when he created the heavens and the earth.
- Miracles can also be called “signs” because they are used as indicators or evidence that God is the all-powerful one who has complete authority over the universe.
- Some miracles were God’s acts of redemption, such as when he rescued the Israelites from being slaves in Egypt and when he protected Daniel from being hurt by lions.
- Other wonders were God’s acts of judgment, such as when he sent a worldwide flood in Noah’s time and when he brought terrible plagues on the land of Egypt during the time of Moses.
- Many of God’s miracles were the physical healings of sick people or bringing dead people back to life.
- God’s power was shown in Jesus when he healed people, calmed storms, walked on water, and raised people from the dead. These were all miracles.
- God also enabled the prophets and the apostles to perform miracles of healing and other things that were only possible through God’s power.

Translation Suggestions:

- Possible translations of “miracles” or “wonders” could include “impossible things that God does” or “powerful works of God” or “amazing acts of God.”
- The frequent expression “signs and wonders” could be translated as “proofs and miracles” or “miraculous works that prove God’s power” or “amazing miracles that show how great God is.”
- Note that this meaning of a miraculous sign is different from a sign that gives proof or evidence for something. The two can be related.

(See also: [power](#), [prophet](#), [apostle](#), [sign](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10
- Acts 4:17
- Acts 4:22
- Daniel 4:1-3
- Deuteronomy 13:1
- Exodus 3:19-22
- John 2:11
- Matthew 13:58

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **16:8** Gideon asked God for two **signs** so he could be sure that God would use him to save Israel.
- **19:14** God did many **miracles** through Elisha.
- **37:10** Many of the Jews believed in Jesus because of this **miracle**.
- **43:6** “Men of Israel, Jesus was a man who did many mighty **signs** and **wonders** by the power of God, as you have seen and already know.”

- **49:2** Jesus did many **miracles** that prove he is God. He walked on water, calmed storms, healed many sick people, drove out demons, raised the dead to life, and turned five loaves of bread and two small fish into enough food for over 5,000 people.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0226, H0852, H2368, H2858, H4150, H4159, H4864, H5251, H5824, H5953, H6381, H6382, H6383, H6395, H6725, H7560, H7583, H8047, H8074, H8539, H8540, G08800, G12130, G12290, G14110, G15690, G17180, G17700, G18390, G22850, G22960, G22970, G31670, G39020, G45910, G45920, G50590

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:20](#); [4:21](#); [Notes](#); [7:3](#); [7:9](#); [11:9](#); [11:10](#); [15:11](#); [34:10](#))

Miriam

Facts:

Miriam was the older sister of Aaron and Moses.

- When she was young, Miriam was instructed by her mother to watch over her baby brother Moses who was in a basket among the reeds of the Nile River. When the pharaoh's daughter found the baby and needed someone to take care of him for her, Miriam brought her mother to do it.
- Miriam led the Israelites in a dance of joy and thanksgiving after they had escaped from the Egyptians by crossing the Red Sea.
- Years later as the Israelites were wandering in the desert, Miriam and Aaron began speaking badly about Moses because he had married a Cushite woman.
- Because of her rebellion in speaking against Moses, God caused Miriam to become sick with leprosy. But later God healed her when Moses interceded for her.

(Translation suggestions: [Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Aaron](#), [Cush](#), [intercede](#), [Moses](#), [Nile River](#), [Pharaoh](#), [rebel](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 6:1-3
- Deuteronomy 24:8-9
- Micah 6:4
- Numbers 12:2
- Numbers 20:1

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4813

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:20](#); [15:21](#))

Moab, Moabite

Facts:

The term “Moab” refers to a people group that lived to the east of the Salt Sea. The book of Genesis describes this people group as the descendents of a man named “Moab,” who was the son of Lot’s elder daughter.

- In the book of Ruth, Elimelek and his family went to live in Moab because of the famine around Bethlehem.
- Ruth is called a “Moabite woman” because she was born in the country of Moab and was from that people group.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: Bethlehem, [Judea](#), Lot, Ruth, Salt Sea)

Bible References:

- Genesis 19:37
- Genesis 36:34-36
- Ruth 1:1-2
- Ruth 1:22

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H4124, H4125

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:15](#))

mock, mocker, mockery, ridicule, scoff at, laughingstock

Definition:

The terms “mock,” “ridicule,” and “scoff at” all refer to making fun of someone, especially in a cruel way.

- Mocking often involves imitating people’s words or actions with the intent to embarrass them or show contempt for them.
- The Roman soldiers mocked or ridiculed Jesus when they put a robe on him and pretended to honor him as king.
- A group of young people ridiculed or scoffed at Elisha when they called him a name, making fun of his bald head.
- The term “scoff at” can also refer to ridiculing an idea that is not considered believable or important.
- A “mocker” is someone who mocks and ridicules consistently.

Bible References:

- 2 Peter 3:4
- Acts 2:12-13
- Galatians 6:6-8
- Genesis 39:13-15
- Luke 22:63-65
- Mark 10:34
- Matthew 9:23-24
- Matthew 20:19
- Matthew 27:29

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **21:12** Isaiah prophesied that people would spit on, **mock**, and beat the Messiah.
- **39:5** The Jewish leaders all answered the high priest, “He deserves to die!” Then they blindfolded Jesus, spit on him, hit him, and **mocked** him.
- **39:12** The soldiers whipped Jesus, and put a royal robe and a crown made of thorns on him. Then they **mocked** him by saying, “Look, the King of the Jews!”
- **40:4** Jesus was crucified between two robbers. One of them **mocked** Jesus, but the other said, “Do you have no fear of God?”
- **40:5** The Jewish leaders and the other people in the crowd **mocked** Jesus. They said to him, “If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross and save yourself! Then we will believe you.”

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1422, H2048, H2049, H2778, H2781, H3213, H3887, H3931, H3932, H3933, H3934, H3944, H3945, H4167, H4485, H4912, H5058, H5607, H6026, H6711, H7046, H7048, H7814, H7832, H8103, H8148, H8437, H8595, G15920, G17010, G17020, G17030, G23010, G26060, G34560, G55120

(Go back to: [Exodus 32:25](#))

month, monthly

Definition:

The term “month” refers to a period of time lasting about four weeks. The number of days in each month varies depending on whether a lunar or solar calendar is used.

- In the lunar calendar, the length of each month is based on the amount of time it takes for the moon to go around the earth, about twenty-nine days. In this system there are twelve or thirteen months in a year. Despite the year being twelve or thirteen months, the first month is always called the same name even though it may be a different season.
- The “new moon,” or beginning phase of the moon with its sliver of light, marks the beginning of each month in the lunar calendar.
- All the names of months referred to in the Bible are those of the lunar calendar since this was the system used by the Israelites. Modern Jews still use this calendar for religious purposes.
- The modern-day solar calendar is based on how long it takes the earth to go around the sun (about 365 days). In this system, the year is always divided up into twelve months, with the length of each month ranging from twenty-eight to thirty-one days.

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 20:34
- Acts 18:9-11
- Hebrews 11:23
- Numbers 10:10

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2320, H3391, H3393, G33760

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:2](#); [12:2](#); [12:3](#); [12:6](#); [12:18](#); [13:4](#); [13:5](#); [16:1](#); [19:1](#); [23:15](#); [34:18](#); [40:2](#); [40:17](#))

Moses

Facts:

Moses was a prophet and leader of the Israelite people for over 40 years. He was the leader of the Israelite people when they came out of Egypt, as described in the book of Exodus.

- When Moses was a baby, Moses' parents put him in a basket in the reeds of the Nile River to hide him from the Egyptian Pharaoh. Moses' sister Miriam watched over him there. Moses' life was spared when the pharaoh's daughter found him and took him to the palace to raise him as her son.
- God chose Moses to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and to lead them to the Promised Land.
- After the Israelites' escape from Egypt and while they were wandering in the desert, God gave Moses two stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them.
- Near the end of his life, Moses saw the Promised Land, but didn't get to live in it because he disobeyed God.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Miriam](#), [Promised Land](#), [Ten Commandments](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 7:21
- Acts 7:30
- Exodus 2:10
- Exodus 9:1
- Matthew 17:4
- Romans 5:14

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **9:12** One day while **Moses** was taking care of his sheep, he saw a bush that was on fire.
- **12:5** **Moses** told the Israelites, "Stop being afraid! God will fight for you today and save you."
- **12:7** God told **Moses** to raise his hand over the sea and divide the waters.
- **12:12** When the Israelites saw that the Egyptians were dead, they trusted in God and believed that Moses was a prophet of God.
- **13:7** Then God wrote these Ten Commandments on two stone tablets and gave them to **Moses**.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4872, H4873, G34750

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:10](#); [2:11](#); [2:14](#); [2:15](#); [2:17](#); [2:21](#); [3:1](#); [3:3](#); [3:4](#); [3:6](#); [3:11](#); [3:13](#); [3:14](#); [3:15](#); [4:1](#); [4:3](#); [4:4](#); [4:10](#); [4:14](#); [4:18](#); [4:19](#); [4:20](#); [4:21](#); [4:27](#); [4:28](#); [4:29](#); [4:30](#); [5:1](#); [5:4](#); [5:20](#); [5:22](#); [6:1](#); [6:2](#); [6:9](#); [6:10](#); [6:12](#); [6:13](#); [6:20](#); [6:26](#); [6:27](#); [6:28](#); [6:29](#); [6:30](#); [7:1](#); [7:6](#); [7:7](#); [7:8](#); [7:10](#); [7:14](#); [7:19](#); [7:20](#); [8:1](#); [8:5](#); [8:8](#); [8:9](#); [8:12](#); [8:13](#); [8:16](#); [8:20](#); [8:25](#); [8:26](#); [8:29](#); [8:30](#); [8:31](#); [9:1](#); [9:8](#); [9:10](#); [9:11](#); [9:12](#); [9:13](#); [9:22](#); [9:23](#); [9:27](#); [9:29](#); [9:33](#); [9:35](#); [10:1](#); [10:3](#); [10:8](#); [10:9](#); [10:12](#); [10:13](#); [10:16](#); [10:21](#); [10:22](#); [10:24](#); [10:25](#); [10:29](#); [11:1](#); [11:3](#); [11:4](#); [11:9](#); [11:10](#); [12:1](#); [12:21](#); [12:28](#); [12:31](#); [12:35](#); [12:43](#); [12:50](#); [13:1](#); [13:3](#); [13:19](#); [14:1](#); [14:11](#); [14:13](#); [14:15](#); [14:21](#); [14:26](#); [14:27](#); [14:31](#); [15:1](#); [15:22](#); [15:24](#); [16:2](#); [16:4](#); [16:6](#); [16:8](#); [16:9](#); [16:11](#); [16:15](#); [16:19](#); [16:20](#); [16:22](#); [16:24](#); [16:25](#); [16:28](#); [16:32](#); [16:33](#); [16:34](#); [17:2](#); [17:3](#); [17:4](#); [17:5](#); [17:6](#); [17:9](#); [17:10](#); [17:11](#); [17:12](#); [17:14](#); [17:15](#); [18:1](#); [18:2](#); [18:5](#); [18:6](#); [18:7](#); [18:8](#); [18:12](#); [18:13](#); [18:14](#); [18:15](#); [18:17](#); [18:24](#); [18:25](#); [18:26](#); [18:27](#); [19:3](#); [19:7](#); [19:8](#); [19:9](#); [19:10](#); [19:14](#); [19:17](#); [19:19](#); [19:20](#); [19:21](#); [19:23](#); [19:25](#); [20:19](#); [20:20](#); [20:21](#); [20:22](#); [24:1](#); [24:2](#); [24:3](#); [24:4](#); [24:6](#); [24:8](#); [24:9](#); [24:12](#); [24:13](#); [24:15](#); [24:16](#); [24:18](#); [25:1](#); [30:11](#); [30:17](#); [30:22](#); [30:34](#); [31:1](#); [31:12](#); [31:18](#); [32:1](#); [32:7](#); [32:9](#); [32:11](#); [32:15](#); [32:17](#); [32:19](#); [32:21](#); [32:23](#); [32:25](#); [32:26](#); [32:28](#); [32:29](#); [32:30](#); [32:31](#); [32:33](#); [33:1](#); [33:5](#); [33:7](#);

33:8; 33:9; 33:11; 33:12; 33:17; 34:1; 34:4; 34:8; 34:27; 34:29; 34:30; 34:31; 34:33; 34:34; 34:35; 35:1; 35:4; 35:20;
35:29; 35:30; 36:2; 36:3; 36:5; 36:6; 38:21; 38:22; 39:1; 39:5; 39:7; 39:21; 39:26; 39:29; 39:31; 39:32; 39:33; 39:42;
39:43; 40:1; 40:16; 40:18; 40:19; 40:21; 40:23; 40:25; 40:27; 40:29; 40:31; 40:32; 40:33; 40:35)

mourn, mourner, weeping

Facts:

The terms “mourn” and “mourning” refer to expressing deep grief, usually in response to the death of someone.

- In many cultures, mourning includes specific outward behaviors that show this sadness and grief.
- The Israelites and other people groups in ancient times expressed mourning through loud wailing and lamenting. They also wore rough clothing made of sackcloth and put ashes on themselves.
- Hired mourners, usually women, would loudly weep and wail from the time of death until well after the body was put in the tomb.
- The typical period of mourning was seven days, but could last as long as thirty days (as for Moses and Aaron) or seventy days (as for Jacob).
- The Bible also uses the term figuratively to talk about “mourning” because of sin. This refers to feeling deeply grieved because sin hurts God and people.

(See also: sackcloth, [sin](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 15:34-35
- 2 Samuel 1:11
- Genesis 23:2
- Luke 7:31-32
- Matthew 11:17

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0056, H0057, H0060, H0205, H0578, H0584, H0585, H1058, H1065, H1068, H1671, H1897, H1899, H4553, H4798, H5092, H5098, H5110, H5594, H6937, H6941, H8386, G23540, G28750, G36020, G39960, G39970

(Go back to: [Exodus 33:4](#))

multiply, multiplied, multiplication

Definition:

The term “multiply” means to greatly increase in number. It can also mean to cause something to increase in amount, such as causing pain to multiply.

- God told animals and human beings to “multiply” and fill the earth. This was a command to reproduce many more of their own kind.
- Jesus made the bread and fish multiply in order to feed the 5,000 people. The amount of food kept increasing so that there was more than enough food to feed everyone.
- Depending on the context, this term could also be translated as “increase” or “cause to increase” or “greatly increase in number” or “become greater in number” or “become more numerous.”
- The phrase “greatly multiply your pain” could also be translated as “cause your pain to become more severe” or “cause you to experience much more pain.”
- To “multiply horses” means to “greedily keep acquiring more horses” or to “get large numbers of horses.”

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 8:1
- Genesis 9:7
- Genesis 22:17
- Hosea 4:6-7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3254, H3527, H6280, H7231, H7233, H7235, H7680, G40520, G41290

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:7](#); [1:10](#); [1:12](#); [1:20](#); [7:3](#); [11:9](#); [32:13](#); [36:5](#))

myrrh

Definition:

Myrrh is an oil or spice that is made from the resin of a myrrh tree that grows in Africa and Asia. It is related to frankincense.

- Myrrh was also used to make incense, perfume, and medicine, and to prepare dead bodies for burial.
- Myrrh was one of the gifts that the learned men gave to Jesus when he was born.
- Jesus was offered wine mixed with myrrh in order to ease the pain when he was crucified.

(See also: [frankincense](#), learned men)

Bible References:

- Exodus 30:22-25
- Genesis 37:25-26
- John 11:1-2
- Mark 15:23
- Matthew 2:11-12

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3910, H4753, G34640, G46660, G46690

(Go back to: [Exodus 30:23](#))

name

Definition:

The term “name” refers to the word by which a specific person or thing is called. In the Bible, however, the term “name” is used in several different ways to refer to several different concepts.

- In some contexts, “name” could refer to a person’s reputation, as in “let us make a name for ourselves.”
- The term “name” could also refer to the memory of something. For example, “cut off the names of the idols” means to destroy those idols so that they are no longer remembered or worshiped.
- Speaking “in the name of God” meant speaking with his power and authority, or as his representative.
- The “name” of someone could refer to the entire person, as in “there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” (See: [metonymy](#))

Translation Suggestions:

- An expression like “his good name” could be translated as “his good reputation.”
- Doing something “in the name of” could be translated as “with the authority of” or “with the permission of” or “as the representative of” that person.
- The expression “make a name for ourselves” could be translated “cause many people to know about us” or “make people think we are very important.”
- The expression “call his name” could be translated as “name him” or “give him the name.”
- The expression “those who love your name” could be translated as “those who love you.”
- The expression “cut off the names of idols” could be translated as “get rid of pagan idols so that they are not even remembered” or “cause people to stop worshiping false gods” or “completely destroy all idols so that people no longer even think about them.”

(See also: [call](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 2:12
- 2 Timothy 2:19
- Acts 4:7
- Acts 4:12
- Acts 9:27
- Genesis 12:2
- Genesis 35:10
- Matthew 18:5

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H5344, H7121, H7761, H8034, H8036, G25640, G36860, G36870, G51220

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:1](#); [1:15](#); [2:10](#); [2:22](#); [3:13](#); [3:15](#); [5:23](#); [6:3](#); [6:16](#); [9:16](#); [15:3](#); [15:23](#); [16:31](#); [17:7](#); [17:15](#); [18:3](#); [18:4](#); [20:7](#); [20:24](#); [23:13](#); [23:21](#); [28:9](#); [28:10](#); [28:11](#); [28:12](#); [28:21](#); [28:29](#); [31:2](#); [33:12](#); [33:17](#); [33:19](#); [34:5](#); [34:14](#); [35:30](#); [39:6](#); [39:14](#))

Naphtali

Facts:

Naphtali was Jacob's sixth son. He was Bilhah's second son. His descendants became one of the tribes of Israel.

- The tribe descended from him was known as the "tribe of Naphtali" or "Naphtali" or "Naphtalites."
- The name Naphtali is similar to the Hebrew word meaning "to twist, wrestle."
- The tribe of Naphtali settled in the northern part of Canaan, between the tribes of Manassah and Asher. Its eastern border was on the western shoreline of the Sea of Chinnereth. When used as the name of a region of land, the term "Naphtali" refers to the land given to the tribe of Naphtali.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, [Jacob](#), Bilhah)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 4:15
- Deuteronomy 27:13-14
- Ezekiel 48:1-3
- Genesis 30:8
- Judges 1:33
- Matthew 4:13

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5321, G35080

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:4](#))

nation

Definition:

A nation is a large group of people ruled by some form of government. The people of a nation often have the same ancestors and share a common ethnicity.

- A “nation” usually has a well-defined culture and territorial boundaries.
- In the Bible, a “nation” could be a country (like Egypt or Ethiopia), but often it is more general and refers to a people group, especially when used in the plural. It is important to check the context.
- Nations in the Bible included the Israelites, the Philistines, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Canaanites, the Romans, and the Greeks, among many others.
- Sometimes the word “nation” was used figuratively to refer to the ancestor of a certain people group, as when Rebekah was told by God that her unborn sons were “nations” that would fight against each other. This could be translated as “the founders of two nations” or the “ancestors of two people groups.”
- The word translated as “nation” was also sometimes used to refer to “Gentiles” or to people who do not worship Yahweh. The context usually makes the meaning clear.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the word “nation” could also be translated as “people group” or “people” or “country.”
- If a language has a term for “nation” that is distinct from these other terms, then that term can be used wherever it occurs in the Bible text, as long as it is natural and accurate in each context.
- The plural term “nations” can often be translated as “people groups.”
- In certain contexts, this term could also be translated as “Gentiles” or “nonJews.”

(See also: Assyria, Babylon, [Canaan](#), Gentile, Greek, [people group](#), [Philistines](#), Rome)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 14:15-17
- 2 Chronicles 15:6
- 2 Kings 17:11-12
- Acts 2:5
- Acts 13:19
- Acts 17:26
- Acts 26:4
- Daniel 3:4
- Genesis 10:2-5
- Genesis 27:29
- Genesis 35:11
- Genesis 49:10
- Luke 7:5
- Mark 13:7-8
- Matthew 21:43
- Romans 4:16-17

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0523, H0524, H0776, H1471, H3816, H4940, H5971, G02460, G10740, G10850, G14840

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:24](#); [19:6](#); [32:10](#); [33:13](#); [34:10](#); [34:24](#))

neighbor, neighborhood, neighboring

Definition:

The term “neighbor” usually refers to a person who lives nearby. It can also refer more generally to someone who lives in the same community or people group.

- A “neighbor” is someone who would be protected and treated kindly because he is part of the same community.
- In the New Testament parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus used the term “neighbor” figuratively, expanding its meaning to include all human beings, even someone who is considered an enemy.
- If possible, it is best to translate this term literally with a word or phrase that means “person who lives nearby.”

(See also: [adversary](#), parable, [people group](#), Samaria)

Bible References:

- Acts 7:26-28
- Ephesians 4:25-27
- Galatians 5:14
- James 2:8
- John 9:8-9
- Luke 1:58
- Matthew 5:43
- Matthew 19:19
- Matthew 22:39

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5997, H7138, H7453, H7468, H7934, G10690, G20870, G40400, G41390

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:22](#); [11:2](#); [12:4](#); [20:16](#); [22:8](#); [22:9](#); [32:27](#))

Nile River, River of Egypt, the Nile

Facts:

The Nile is a very long and wide river in northeastern Africa. It is especially well known as the main river of Egypt.

- The Nile River flows north through Egypt and into the Mediterranean Sea.
- Crops grow well in the fertile land on either side of the Nile River.
- Most Egyptians live near the Nile River since it is an important source of water for food crops.
- The Israelites lived in the land of Goshen, which was very fertile because it was located along the Nile River.
- When Moses was a baby, his parents placed him in a basket among the reeds of the Nile to hide him from Pharaoh's men.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Egypt](#), [Goshen](#), [Moses](#))

Bible References:

- Amos 8:8
- Genesis 41:1-3
- Jeremiah 46:8

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **8:4** Egypt was a large, powerful country located along the **Nile River**.
- **9:4** Pharaoh saw that the Israelites were having many babies, so he ordered his people to kill all Israelite baby boys by throwing them into the **Nile River**.
- **9:6** When the boy's parents could no longer hide him, they put him in a floating basket among the reeds along the edge of the **Nile River** in order to save him from being killed.
- **10:3** God turned the **Nile River** into blood, but Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites go.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0216, H2975, H4714, H5104

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:22](#); [2:3](#); [2:5](#); [4:9](#); [7:15](#); [7:17](#); [7:18](#); [7:20](#); [7:21](#); [7:24](#); [7:25](#); [8:3](#); [8:9](#); [8:11](#); [17:5](#))

oath, swear, swearing, swear by

Definition:

The term "oath" in the Bible refers to a formal promise, usually made in a legal or religious context, in which the person making the oath accepts some kind of accountability or punishment if he does not fulfill his promise. In the Bible, the term "swear" means to make an oath.

- In a court of law, a witness often gives an oath to promise that whatever he says will be true and factual.
- In modern times, one meaning of the word "swear" is to use foul or vulgar language. This is never its meaning in the Bible.
- The term "swear by" means to use the name of something or someone as the basis or power on which the oath is made.
- Abraham and Abimelech swore an oath when they made a covenant together concerning the use of a well.
- Abraham told his servant to swear (formally promise) that he would find Isaac a wife from among Abraham's relatives.
- God also made oaths in which he made promises to his people.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, "an oath" could also be translated as "a pledge" or "a solemn promise."
- To "swear" could be translated as to "formally promise" or to "pledge" or to "commit to do something."
- Other ways to translate "swear by my name" could include "make a promise using my name to confirm it."
- To "swear by heaven and earth" could be translated as to, "promise to do something, stating that heaven and earth will confirm it."
- Make sure the translation of "swear" or "oath" does not refer to cursing. In the Bible it does not have that meaning.

(See also: Abimelech, [covenant](#), [vow](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 21:23
- Genesis 24:3
- Genesis 31:51-53
- Genesis 47:31
- Luke 1:73
- Mark 6:26
- Matthew 5:36
- Matthew 14:6-7
- Matthew 26:72

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0422, H0423, H3027, H5375, H7621, H7650, G03320, G36600, G37270, G37280

(Go back to: [Exodus 13:5](#); [13:11](#); [13:19](#); [22:11](#); [32:13](#); [33:1](#))

obey, keep

Definition:

The term “obey” means to do what has been commanded by a person or law. The term “obedient” describes someone who obeys. Sometimes a command prohibits doing something, as in “do not steal.” In this case, to “obey” means not to steal. In the Bible, often the term “keep” means “to obey.”

- Usually the term “obey” is used in the context of obeying the commands or laws of a person in authority. For example, people obey laws which are created by the leaders of a country, kingdom, or other organization.
- Children obey their parents, people obey God, and citizens obey the laws of their country.
- When someone in authority commands people not to do something, they obey by not doing that.
- Ways to translate obey could include a word or phrase that means “do what is commanded” or “follow orders” or “do what God says to do.”
- The term “obedient” could be translated as “doing what was commanded” or “following orders” or “doing what God commands.”

(See also: citizen, [command](#), disobey, [kingdom](#), [law](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 5:32
- Acts 6:7
- Genesis 28:6-7
- James 1:25
- James 2:10
- Luke 6:47
- Matthew 7:26
- Matthew 19:20-22
- Matthew 28:20

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **3:4** Noah **obeyed** God. He and his three sons built the boat just the way God had told them.
- **5:6** Again Abraham **obeyed** God and prepared to sacrifice his son.
- **5:10** “Because you (Abraham) have *_obeyed_* me, all the families of the world will be blessed through your family”
- **5:10** But the Egyptians did not believe God or **obey** his commands.
- **13:7** If the people **obeyed** these laws, God promised that he would bless and protect them.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1697, H2388, H3349, H4928, H6213, H7181, H8085, H8086, H8104, G01910, G39800, G39820, G50830, G50840, G52180, G52190, G52550, G52920, G52930, G54420

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:26](#); [31:13](#))

oil

Definition:

Oil is a thick, clear liquid that can be taken from certain plants. In Bible times, oil usually came from olives.

- Olive oil was used for cooking, anointing, sacrifice, lamps, and medicine.
- In ancient times, olive oil was highly prized, and the possession of oil was considered a measurement of wealth.
- Make sure the translation of this term refers to the kind of oil that can be used in cooking, not motor oil. Some languages have different words for these different kinds of oil.

(See also: [olive](#), [sacrifice](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Samuel 1:21
- Exodus 29:2
- Leviticus 5:11
- Leviticus 8:1-3
- Mark 6:12-13
- Matthew 25:7-9

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2091, H3323, H4887, H6671, H7246, H8081, G16370, G34640

(Go back to: [Exodus 27:20](#); [29:2](#); [29:7](#); [29:21](#); [29:23](#); [30:24](#); [30:25](#); [30:31](#); [31:11](#); [35:14](#); [35:15](#); [35:28](#); [37:29](#); [39:37](#); [39:38](#); [40:9](#))

olive

Definition:

The olive is the small, oval fruit from an olive tree, which is mostly grown in the regions surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.

- Olive trees are a type of large evergreen shrub with tiny white flowers. They grow best in hot weather and can survive well with little water.
- The olive tree's fruit starts out green and changes to black as they ripen. Olives were useful for food and for the oil that could be extracted from them.
- Olive oil was used for cooking in lamps and for religious ceremonies.
- In the Bible, olive trees and branches are sometimes used figuratively to refer to people.

(See also: [lamp](#), [the sea](#), Mount of Olives)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 27:28-29
- Deuteronomy 6:10-12
- Exodus 23:10-11
- Genesis 8:11
- James 3:12
- Luke 16:6
- Psalms 52:8

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2132, H3323, H8081, G00650, G16360, G16370, G25650

(Go back to: [Exodus 23:11](#); [25:6](#); [27:20](#); [30:24](#); [35:8](#))

oppress, oppressed, oppression, oppressor, dominate

Definition:

The terms “oppress” and “oppression” refer to treating people harshly. An “oppressor” is a person who oppresses people.

- The term “oppression” especially refers to a situation where people of greater strength mistreat or enslave people who are under their power or rule.
- The term “oppressed” describes the people who are being harshly treated.
- Often enemy nations and their rulers were oppressors to the people of Israel.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, “oppress” could be translated as “severely mistreat” or “cause to be heavily burdened” or “put under miserable bondage” or “rule harshly.”
- Ways to translate “oppression” could include “heavy suppression and bondage” or “burdensome control.”
- The phrase “the oppressed” could be translated as “oppressed people” or “people in terrible bondage” or “those who are treated harshly.”
- The term “oppressor” could be translated as “person who oppresses” or “nation who controls and rules harshly” or “persecutor.”

(See also: [bind](#), [enslave](#), persecute)

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 10:17-19
- Deuteronomy 26:7
- Ecclesiastes 4:1
- Job 10:3
- Judges 2:18-19
- Nehemiah 5:14-15
- Psalms 119:134

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1790, H1792, H2541, H2555, H3238, H3905, H3906, H4642, H5065, H6031, H6125, H6184, H6206, H6216, H6217, H6231, H6233, H6234, H6693, H7429, H7533, H7701, G26160, G26690

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:7](#); [3:9](#); [22:21](#); [23:9](#))

ordinance, regulations, requirements, strict law, customs

Definition:

An ordinance is a public regulation or law that gives rules or instructions for people to follow. This term is related to the term “ordain.”

- Sometimes an ordinance is a custom that has become well established through years of practice.
- In the Bible, an ordinance was something that God commanded the Israelites to do. Sometimes he commanded them to do it forever.
- The term “ordinance” could be translated as “public decree” or “regulation” or “law,” depending on the context.

(See also: [command](#), [decree](#), [law](#), [ordain](#), [statute](#))

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 4:13-14
- Exodus 27:20-21
- Leviticus 8:31-33
- Malachi 3:6-7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2706, H4687, H4931, H4941

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:25](#); [21:1](#); [21:9](#); [21:31](#); [24:3](#); [29:28](#))

oversee, overseer, keeper

Definition:

The term "overseer" refers to a person who is in charge of the work and welfare of other people. In the Bible, often the term "keeper" means "overseer."

- In the Old Testament, an overseer had the job of making sure the workers under him did their work well.
- In the New Testament, this term is used to describe leaders of the early Christian church. Their work was to take care of the spiritual needs of the church, making sure the believers received accurate biblical teaching.
- Paul refers to an overseer as being like a shepherd who takes care of the believers in a local church, who are his "flock."
- The overseer, like a shepherd, keeps watch over the flock. He guards and protects the believers from false spiritual teaching and other evil influences.
- In the New Testament, the terms "overseers," "elders," and "shepherds/pastors" are different ways of referring to the same spiritual leaders.

Translation Suggestions

- Other ways to translate this term could be "supervisor" or "caretaker" or "manager."
- When referring to a leader of a local group of God's people, this term could be translated with a word or phrase that means "spiritual supervisor" or "someone who takes care of the spiritual needs of a group of believers" or "person who oversees the spiritual needs of the Church."

(See also: church, [elder](#), pastor, [shepherd](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 26:31-32
- 1 Timothy 3:2
- Acts 20:28
- Genesis 41:33-34
- Philippians 1:1

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5329, H6485, H6496, H7860, H8104, G19830, G19840, G19850

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:11](#))

overtake

Definition:

The term “overtake” and “overtook” refer to gaining control over someone or something. It usually includes the idea of catching up to something after pursuing it.

- When military troops “overtake” an enemy, it means they defeat that enemy in battle.
- When a predator overtakes its prey, it means that it pursues and catches its prey.
- If a curse “overtakes” someone, it means that whatever was said in that curse happens to the person
- If blessings “overtake” people, it means that those people experience those blessings.
- Depending on the context, “overtake” could be translated as “conquer” or “capture” or “defeat” or “catch up to” or “completely affect.”
- The past action “overtook” can be translated as “caught up to” or “came alongside of” or “conquered” or “defeated” or “caused harm to.”
- When used in a warning that darkness or punishment or terrors will overtake people because of their sin, it means that those people will experience these negative things if they don’t repent.
- The phrase “My words have overtaken your fathers” means that the teachings that Yahweh gave to their ancestors will now cause the ancestors to receive punishment because they failed to obey those teachings.

(See also: [bless](#), [curse](#), prey, punish)

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 25:4-5
- John 12:35

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0579, H0935, H1692, H4672, H5066, H5381, G26380, G29830

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:9](#))

palace, house

Definition:

The term “palace” refers to the building or house where a king lived, along with his family members and servants.

- The high priest also lived in a palace complex, as mentioned in the New Testament.
- Palaces were very ornate, with beautiful architecture and furnishings.
- The buildings and furnishings of a palace were constructed of stone or wood, and often were overlaid with expensive wood, gold, or ivory.
- Many other people also lived and worked in the palace complex, which usually included several buildings and courtyards.

(See also: [courtyard](#), high priest, [king](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 28:7-8
- 2 Samuel 11:2-3
- Daniel 5:5-6
- Matthew 26:3-5
- Psalms 45:8

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0759, H1002, H1004, H1055, H1406, H1964, H1965, G08330, G09330, G42320

(Go back to: [Exodus 7:23](#); [8:3](#); [8:24](#))

palm

Definition:

The term “palm” refers to a type of tall tree with long, flexible, leafy branches extending from the top in a fan-like pattern.

- The palm tree in the Bible usually refers to a type of palm tree that produces a fruit called a “date.” The leaves have a feather-like pattern.
- Palm trees typically grow in places that have a hot, humid climate. Their leaves stay green all year long.
- As Jesus was entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey, the people laid palm branches on the ground in front of him.
- Palm branches signified peace and the celebration of a victory.

(See also: [donkey](#), [Jerusalem](#), [peace](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 6:29-30
- Ezekiel 40:14-16
- John 12:12-13
- Numbers 33:9

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3712, H8558, H8560, H8561, G54040

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:27](#))

Passover

Facts:

The “Passover” is the name of a religious festival that the Jews celebrate every year, to remember how God rescued their ancestors, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt.

- The name of this festival comes from the fact that God “passed over” the houses of the Israelites and did not kill their sons when he killed the firstborn sons of the Egyptians.
- The Passover celebration includes a special meal of a perfect lamb that they have killed and roasted, as well as bread made without yeast. These foods remind them of the meal that the Israelites ate the night before they escaped from Egypt.
- God told the Israelites to eat this meal every year in order to remember and celebrate how God “passed over” their houses and how he set them free from slavery in Egypt.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “Passover” could be translated by combining the words “pass” and “over” or another combination of words that has this meaning.
- It is helpful if the name of this festival has a clear connection to the words used to explain what the angel of the Lord did in passing by the houses of the Israelites and sparing their sons.

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 5:7
- 2 Chronicles 30:13-15
- 2 Kings 23:23
- Deuteronomy 16:2
- Exodus 12:26-28
- Ezra 6:21-22
- John 13:1
- Joshua 5:10-11
- Leviticus 23:4-6
- Numbers 9:3

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **12:14** God commanded the Israelites to remember his victory over the Egyptians and their deliverance from slavery by celebrating the **Passover** every year.
- **38:1** Every year, the Jews celebrated the **Passover**. This was a celebration of how God had saved their ancestors from slavery in Egypt many centuries earlier.
- **38:4** Jesus celebrated the **Passover** with his disciples.
- **48:9** When God saw the blood, he passed over their houses and did not kill their firstborn sons. This event is called the **Passover**.
- **48:10** Jesus is our **Passover** Lamb. He was perfect and sinless and was killed at the time of the **Passover** celebration.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H6453, G39570

(Go back to: [Introduction to Exodus](#); [Exodus 12 General Notes](#); [12:11](#); [12:21](#); [12:27](#); [12:43](#); [12:48](#); [34:25](#))

peace offering

Facts:

A “peace offering” was one of several sacrificial offerings that God commanded the Israelites to make. It is sometimes called the “thanksgiving offering” or “fellowship offering.”

- This offering involved sacrificing an animal that had no defects, sprinkling the animal’s blood on the altar, and burning the animal’s fat, as well as the rest of the animal separately.
- Added to this sacrifice was an offering of both unleavened and leavened bread, which was burned on top of the burnt offering.
- The priest and one who offered the sacrifice were permitted to share in eating the food that was offered.
- This offering symbolizes the fellowship of God with his people.

(See also: [burnt offering](#), fellowship, fellowship offering, [grain offering](#), [priest](#), [sacrifice](#), [unleavened bread](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 13:8-10
- Ezekiel 45:16-17
- Joshua 8:30-32
- Leviticus 9:3-5
- Proverbs 7:13-15

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H8002

(Go back to: [Exodus 20:24](#); [24:5](#); [29:28](#); [32:6](#))

peace, peaceful, peacemakers

Definition:

The term “peace” refers to a state of being or a feeling of having no conflict, anxiety, or fearfulness. A person who is “peaceful” feels calm and assured of being safe and secure.

- In the Old Testament, the term “peace” often means a general sense of a person’s welfare, wellness, or wholeness.
- “Peace” can also refer to a time when people groups or countries are not at war with each other. These people are said to have “peaceful relations.”
- To “make peace” with a person or a group of people means to take actions to cause fighting to stop.
- A “peacemaker” is someone who does and says things to influence people to live at peace with each other.
- To be “at peace” with other people means being in a state of not fighting against those people.
- A good or right relationship between God and people happens when God saves people from their sin. This is called having “peace with God.”
- The greeting “grace and peace” was used by the apostles in their letters to their fellow believers as a blessing.
- The term “peace” can also refer to being in a good relationship with other people or with God.

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3
- Acts 7:26
- Colossians 1:18-20
- Colossians 3:15
- Galatians 5:23
- Luke 7:50
- Luke 12:51
- Mark 4:39
- Matthew 5:9
- Matthew 10:13

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **15:6** God had commanded the Israelites not to make a **peace** treaty with any of the people groups in Canaan.
- **15:12** Then God gave Israel **peace** along all its borders.
- **16:3** Then God provided a deliverer who rescued them from their enemies and brought **peace** to the land.
- **21:13** He (Messiah) would die to receive the punishment for other people’s sin. His punishment would bring **peace** between God and people.
- **48:14** David was the king of Israel, but Jesus is the king of the entire universe! He will come again and rule his kingdom with justice and **peace**, forever.
- **50:17** Jesus will rule his kingdom with **peace** and justice, and he will be with his people forever.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H5117, H7961, H7962, H7965, H7999, H8001, H8002, H8003, H8252, G02690, G15140, G15150, G15160, G15170, G15180, G22720

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:18](#); [18:23](#))

Pentecost, Festival of Weeks

Facts:

The "Festival of Weeks" was a Jewish festival that took place fifty days after Passover. It was later referred to as "Pentecost."

- The Feast of Weeks was seven weeks (fifty days) after the Feast of Firstfruits. In the New Testament times, this festival was called "Pentecost" which has "fifty" as part of its meaning.
- The Festival of Weeks was held to celebrate the beginning of the grain harvest. It was also a time to remember when God first gave the Law to the Israelites on the tablets of stone given to Moses.
- In the New Testament, the Day of Pentecost is especially significant because it was when the believers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit in a new way.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [festival](#), [firstfruits](#), [harvest](#), Holy Spirit, [raise](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 8:12-13
- Acts 2:1
- Acts 20:15-16
- Deuteronomy 16:16-17
- Numbers 28:26

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2282, H7620, G40050

(Go back to: [Exodus 34:22](#))

people of God

Definition:

The concept of the “people of God” in the Bible refers to people with whom God has established a covenant relationship.

- In the Old Testament, the phrase “people of God” refers to the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel was chosen by God and set apart from the other nations of the world in order to serve and obey him.
- In the New Testament, the phrase “people of God” refers to the “Church,” meaning everyone who believes in Jesus. This includes both Jews and Gentiles. In the New Testament, sometimes this group of people is called the “sons of God” or “children of God.”
- When God uses the phrase “my people,” he is referring to people who have a covenant relationship with him. God’s people are chosen by him, and he wants them to live in a way that is pleasing to him.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “people of God” could be translated as “God’s people” or “the people who worship God” or “people who serve God” or “people who belong to God.”
- When God says “my people” other ways to translate it could include “the people I have chosen” or “the people who worship me” or “the people who belong to me.”
- Similarly, “your people” could be translated as “the people who belong to you” or “the people you chose to belong to you.”
- Also “his people” could be translated as “the people who belong to him” or “the people God chose to belong to himself.”

(See also: [Israel](#), [people group](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 11:2
- Acts 7:34
- Acts 7:51-53
- Acts 10:36-38
- Daniel 9:24-25
- Isaiah 2:5-6
- Jeremiah 6:20-22
- Joel 3:16-17
- Micah 6:3-5
- Revelation 13:7-8

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0430, H5971, G23160, G29920

([Go back to: Exodus 4 General Notes](#))

people, people group

Definition:

The terms “people” and “people group” refer to some group of people that shares a common language and culture. The term “the people” often refers to a gathering of people in a certain place or at a specific event.

- In Bible times, the members of a people group usually had the same ancestors and lived together in a particular country or area of land.
- Depending on the context, the term “people” can refer to a “people group” or “family” or “relatives” or “army.”
- In plural form, the term “peoples” often refers to all people groups on the earth. Sometimes it refers more specifically to people who are not Israelites or who do not serve Yahweh. In some English Bible translations, the term “nations” is also used in this way.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “people group” could be translated by a word or phrase that means “large family group” or “clan” or “ethnic group.”
- A phrase such as “my people” could be translated as “my relatives” or “my fellow Israelites” or “my family” or “my people group,” depending on the context.
- The expression “scatter you among the peoples” could also be translated as “cause you to go live with many different people groups” or “cause you to separate from each other and go live in many different regions of the world.”
- The term “the peoples” or “the people” could also be translated as “the people in the world” or “people groups,” depending on the context.
- The phrase “the people of” could be translated as “the people living in” or “the people descended from” or “the family of,” depending on whether it is followed by the name of a place or a person.
- “All the peoples of the earth” could be translated as “everyone living on earth” or “every person in the world” or “all people.”
- The phrase “a people” could also be translated as “a group of people” or “certain people” or “a community of people” or “a family of people.”

(See also: [descendant](#), [nation](#), [tribe](#), world)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 8:51-53
- 1 Samuel 8:7
- Deuteronomy 28:9
- Genesis 49:16
- Ruth 1:16

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **14:2** God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give the Promised Land to their descendants, but now there were many **people groups** living there.
- **21:2** God promised Abraham that through him all **people groups** of the world would receive a blessing. This blessing would be that the Messiah would come sometime in the future and provide the way of salvation for people from all the **people groups** of the world.

- **42:8** "It was also written in the scriptures that my disciples will proclaim that everyone should repent in order to receive forgiveness for their sins. They will do this starting in Jerusalem, and then go to all **people groups** everywhere."
- **42:10** "So go, make disciples of all **people groups** by baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and by teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
- **48:11** Because of this New Covenant, anyone from any **people group** can become part of God's people by believing in Jesus.
- **50:3** He (Jesus) said, "Go and make disciples of all **people groups!**" and, "The fields are ripe for harvest!"

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0249, H0523, H0524, H0776, H1121, H1471, H3816, H5712, H5971, H5972, H6153, G10740, G10850, G12180, G14840, G25600, G29920, G37930

(Go back to: Exodus 1:9; 1:20; 3:7; 3:10; 3:12; 3:21; 4:16; 4:21; 5:1; 5:4; 5:5; 5:6; 5:7; 5:10; 5:12; 5:22; 5:23; 6:7; 7:4; 7:14; 7:16; 8:1; 8:8; 8:9; 8:11; 8:20; 8:21; 8:22; 8:23; 8:29; 8:31; 8:32; 9:1; 9:7; 9:13; 9:14; 9:15; 9:17; 9:27; 10:3; 10:4; 11:2; 11:3; 11:8; 12:27; 12:31; 12:33; 12:36; 13:3; 13:17; 13:18; 13:22; 14:5; 14:6; 14:13; 14:31; 15:13; 15:14; 15:16; 15:24; 16:4; 16:27; 16:30; 17:1; 17:2; 17:3; 17:4; 17:5; 17:6; 17:13; 18:1; 18:10; 18:13; 18:14; 18:15; 18:18; 18:19; 18:21; 18:22; 18:23; 18:25; 18:26; 19:5; 19:7; 19:8; 19:9; 19:10; 19:11; 19:12; 19:14; 19:15; 19:16; 19:17; 19:21; 19:23; 19:24; 19:25; 20:18; 20:20; 20:21; 21:8; 22:25; 22:28; 23:11; 23:27; 24:2; 24:3; 24:7; 24:8; 30:33; 30:38; 32:1; 32:3; 32:6; 32:7; 32:9; 32:11; 32:12; 32:14; 32:17; 32:21; 32:22; 32:25; 32:28; 32:30; 32:31; 32:34; 32:35; 33:1; 33:3; 33:4; 33:5; 33:8; 33:10; 33:12; 33:13; 33:16; 34:9; 34:10; 36:5; 36:6)

perfect, complete

Definition:

In the New Testament, the term “perfect” means to be mature in our Christian life. To perfect something means to work at it until it is excellent and without flaws. Old Testament sacrifices needed to be “perfect” or “complete,” that is, without blemish.

- Being perfect and mature means that a Christian is obedient, not sinless.
- The term “perfect” also has the meaning of being “complete” or “whole.”
- The New Testament book of James states that persevering through trials will produce completeness and maturity in the believer.
- When Christians study the Bible and obey it, they will become more spiritually perfect and mature because they will be more like Christ in their character.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could be translated as “without flaw” or “without error” or “flawless” or “without fault” or “not having any faults.”

(See also: [blemish](#))

Bible References:

- Hebrews 12:2
- James 3:2
- Matthew 5:46-48
- Psalms 19:7-8

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3632, H3634, H4359, H8003, H8503, H8537, H8549, H8552, G01990, G26750, G26760, G36470, G50460, G50470, G50480, G50500

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:5](#))

perish

Definition:

The term “perish” means to die or be destroyed, usually as the result of violence or disaster. In the New Testament, it often has the spiritual meaning of being lost or separated from the people of God.

Spiritual Meaning of “Perish:”

- People who are “perishing” are those who have refused to trust in Jesus for their salvation.
- Those who “perish” will not live eternally with God in heaven. Instead, they will live eternally in hell under God’s punishment.
- Everyone will die physically, but only those who do not trust in Jesus for their salvation will perish eternally.
- When “perish” is used in a spiritual sense, make sure that your translation expresses this differently than dying physically.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, ways to translate this term could include “be lost from God’s people,” “die eternally,” “be punished in hell,” or “be destroyed.”
- Try to use a term or expression that does not only mean “die physically” or “cease to exist.”

(See also: [death](#), [everlasting](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Peter 1:23
- 2 Corinthians 2:16-17
- 2 Thessalonians 2:10
- Jeremiah 18:18
- Psalms 49:18-20
- Zechariah 9:5-7
- Zechariah 13:8

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0006, H0007, H0008, H1478, H1820, H1826, H5486, H5595, H6544, H8045, G05990, G06220, G06840, G08530, G13110, G27040, G48810, G53560

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:7](#))

Perizzite

Facts:

The Perizzites were one of several people groups in the land of Canaan. Little is known about this group as to who their ancestors were or what part of Canaan they lived in.

- The Perizzites are mentioned most frequently in the Old Testament Book of Judges, where it is recorded that the Perizzites intermarried with the Israelites and influenced them to worship false gods.
- Note that the clan of Perez, called the "Perezites," was a different people group from the Perizzites. It may be necessary to spell the names very differently to make this clear.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Canaan](#), false god)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 9:20-21
- 2 Chronicles 8:7-8
- Exodus 3:16-18
- Genesis 13:7
- Joshua 3:9-11

Word Data:

- Strong's: H6522

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:8](#); [3:17](#); [23:23](#); [33:2](#); [34:11](#))

perverse, perversion, pervert, depraved, malicious, devious, dishonest, distortion

Definition:

The term “perverse” is used to describe a person or action that is morally crooked or twisted. The term “perversely” means “in a perverse manner.” To “pervert” something means to twist it or turn it away from what is right or good.

- Someone or something that is perverse has deviated from what is good and right.
- In the Bible, the Israelites acted perversely when they disobeyed God. They often did this by worshiping false gods.
- Any action which is against God’s standards or behavior is considered perverse.
- Ways to translate “perverse” could include “morally twisted” or “immoral” or “turning away from God’s straight path,” depending on the context.
- “Perverse speech” could be translated as “speaking in an evil way” or “deceitful talk” or “immoral way of talking.”
- “Perverse people” could be described as “immoral people” or “people who are morally deviant” or “people who continually disobey God.”
- The phrase “acting perversely” could be translated as “behaving in an evil way” or “doing things against God’s commands” or “living in a way that rejects God’s teachings.”
- The term “pervert” could also be translated as “cause to be corrupt” or “turn into something evil.”

(See also: [corrupt](#), [deceive](#), [disobey](#), [evil](#), [turn](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 8:47
- 1 Samuel 20:30
- Job 33:27-28
- Luke 23:2
- Psalms 101:4-6

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1942, H2015, H3868, H4297, H5186, H5557, H5558, H5753, H5766, H5773, H5791, H6140, H6141, H8138, H8397, H8419, G12940

(Go back to: [Exodus 23:8](#))

Pharaoh, king of Egypt

Facts:

In ancient times, the kings who ruled over the country of Egypt were called pharaohs.

- Altogether, over 300 pharaohs ruled Egypt for more than 2,000 years.
- These Egyptians kings were very powerful and wealthy.
- Several of these pharaohs are mentioned in the Bible.
- Often this title is used as a name rather than as a title. In these cases, it is capitalized and written as "Pharaoh."

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [egypt](#), [king](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 7:9-10
- Acts 7:13
- Acts 7:21
- Genesis 12:15
- Genesis 40:7
- Genesis 41:25

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **8:6** One night, the **Pharaoh**, which is what the Egyptians called their kings, had two dreams that disturbed him greatly.
- **8:8 Pharaoh** was so impressed with Joseph that he appointed him to be the second most powerful man in all of Egypt!
- **9:2** So the **Pharaoh** who was ruling over Egypt at that time made the Israelites slaves to the Egyptians.
- **9:13** "I will send you to **Pharaoh** so that you can bring the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt."
- **10:2** Through these plagues, God showed **Pharaoh_ that he is more powerful than_Pharaoh** and all of Egypt's gods.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4428, H4714, H6547, G53280

(Go back to: Exodus 1:11; 1:19; 1:22; 2:5; 2:7; 2:8; 2:9; 2:10; 2:15; 3:10; 3:11; 4:21; 4:22; 5:1; 5:2; 5:5; 5:6; 5:10; 5:14; 5:15; 5:20; 5:21; 5:23; 6:1; 6:11; 6:12; 6:13; 6:27; 6:29; 6:30; 7:1; 7:2; 7:3; 7:4; 7:7; 7:9; 7:10; 7:11; 7:13; 7:14; 7:15; 7:20; 7:22; 7:23; 8:1; 8:8; 8:9; 8:12; 8:15; 8:19; 8:20; 8:24; 8:25; 8:28; 8:29; 8:30; 8:31; 8:32; 9:1; 9:7; 9:8; 9:10; 9:12; 9:13; 9:20; 9:27; 9:33; 9:34; 9:35; 10:1; 10:3; 10:6; 10:7; 10:8; 10:11; 10:16; 10:18; 10:20; 10:24; 10:27; 10:28; 11:1; 11:3; 11:5; 11:8; 11:9; 11:10; 12:29; 12:30; 13:15; 13:17; 14:3; 14:4; 14:5; 14:8; 14:9; 14:10; 14:17; 14:18; 14:23; 14:28; 15:4; 15:19; 18:4; 18:8; 18:10)

Philistia

Definition:

Philistia is the name of a large region in the land of Canaan, located along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

- The region was located along the very fertile coastal plain reaching from Joppa in the north to Gaza in the south. It was about 64 km long and 16 km wide.
- Philistia was occupied by the "Philistines," a powerful people group who were frequent enemies of the Israelites.

(See also: [Philistines](#), Gaza, Joppa)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 10:9-10
- Joel 3:4
- Psalms 60:8-9

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0776 H6429 H6430

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:14](#))

Philistines

Facts:

The Philistines were a people group who occupied a region known as Philistia along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Their name means "people of the sea."

- There were five main Philistine cities: Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron, Gath, and Gaza.
- The city of Ashdod was in the northern part of Philistia, and the city of Gaza was in the southern part.
- The Philistines are probably best known for the many years they were at war against the Israelites.
- The judge Samson was a famous warrior against the Philistines, using supernatural strength from God.
- King David often led battles against the Philistines, including the time as a youth when he defeated the Philistine warrior, Goliath.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: Ashdod, Ashkelon, David, Ekron, Gath, Gaza, Goliath, Salt Sea)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 18:9-11
- 1 Samuel 13:4
- 2 Chronicles 9:25-26
- Genesis 10:11-14
- Psalm 56:1-2

Word Data:

- Strong's: H6429, H6430

(Go back to: [Exodus 13:17](#); [23:31](#))

Phinehas

Facts:

Phineas was the name of two men in the Old Testament.

- One of Aaron's grandsons was a priest named Phinehas, who strongly opposed the worship of false gods in Israel.
- Phineas saved the Israelites from a plague that Yahweh had sent to punish them for marrying Midianite women and worshiping their false gods.
- On several occasions Phinehas went with the Israelite army to destroy the Midianites.
- The other Phinehas mentioned in the Old Testament was one of the evil sons of Eli the priest during the time of the prophet Samuel.
- Phinehas and his brother Hophni were both killed when the Philistines attacked Israel and stole the Ark of the Covenant.

(Translation suggestions: [Translate Names](#))

(See also: [ark of the covenant](#), Jordan River, [Midian](#), [Philistines](#), Samuel)

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 4:4
- Ezra 8:2
- Joshua 22:13-14
- Numbers 25:6-7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H6372

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:25](#))

pit, pitfall, trenches, cistern

Definition:

A pit is a deep hole that has been dug in the ground.

- A “cistern” was a hole dug in order to hold water.
- People dig pits for the purpose of trapping animals or finding water.
- A pit can also be used as a temporary place to hold a prisoner.
- Sometimes the phrase “the pit” refers to the grave or to hell. Other times it may refer to “the abyss.”
- The term “pit” is also used figuratively in phrases such as, “pit of destruction” which describes being trapped in a disastrous situation or being deeply involved in sinful, destructive practices.

(See also: abyss, hell, prison)

Bible References:

- Genesis 37:21-22
- Job 33:18
- Luke 6:39
- Proverbs 1:12

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0875, H0953, H1356, H1475, H2352, H4087, H4113, H4379, H6354, H7585, H7745, H7816, H7825, H7845, H7882, G00120, G09990, G54210

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:29](#); [21:33](#))

plague

Definition:

Plagues are events which cause suffering or death to a large number of people. Often a plague is a disease that spreads quickly and causes many people to die before it can be stopped.

- Many plagues have natural causes, but some were sent by God to punish people for sin.
- In the time of Moses, God sent ten plagues against Egypt to force Pharaoh to let Israel leave Egypt. These plagues included water turning into blood, physical diseases, destruction of crops by insects and hail, three days of complete darkness, and death of the firstborn sons.
- This could also be translated as “widespread disasters” or “widespread disease,” depending on the context.

(See also: [hail](#), [Israel](#), [Moses](#), [Pharaoh](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Samuel 24:13-14
- Exodus 9:14
- Genesis 12:17-20
- Luke 21:11
- Revelation 9:18

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1698, H4046, H4194, H4347, H5061, H5062, H5063, G30610, G41270

(Go back to: [Exodus 5:3](#); [9:3](#); [9:14](#); [9:15](#); [11:1](#); [12:13](#); [30:12](#); [32:35](#))

plant, planted, implanted, replanted, transplanted, sow

Definition:

A “plant” is generally something that grows and is attached to the ground. To “sow” means to put seeds in the ground in order to grow plants. A “sower” is a person who sows or plants seeds.

- The method of sowing or planting varies, but one method is to take handfuls of seeds and scatter them on the ground.
- Another method for planting seeds is to make holes in the soil and place seeds in each hole.
- The term “sow” can be used figuratively, as in “a person will reap what he sows.” This means that if a person does something evil, he will receive a negative result, and if a person does good, he will receive a positive result.

Translations Suggestions

- The term to “sow” could also be translated as to “plant.” Make sure the word used to translate this can include planting seeds.
- Other ways to translate “sower” could include “planter” or “farmer” or “person who plants seeds.”
- In English, “sow” is only used for planting seeds, but the English word “plant” can be used for planting seeds as well as larger things, such as trees. Other languages may also use different words, depending on what is being planted.
- The expression “a person reaps what he sows” could also be translated as “just like a certain kind of seed produces a certain kind of plant, in the same way a person’s good actions will bring a good result and a person’s evil actions will bring an evil result.”

(See also: [evil](#), [good](#), [harvest](#))

Bible References:

- Galatians 6:8
- Luke 8:5
- Matthew 6:25-26
- Matthew 13:4
- Matthew 13:19
- Matthew 25:24

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2221, H2232, H2233, H2236, H4218, H4302, H5193, H7971, H8362, G46870, G47030, G54520

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:17](#); [23:10](#))

plea, plead, please, beg, implore

Facts:

The terms “plead” and “pleading” refer to urgently asking someone to do something. A “plea” is an urgent request.

- Pleading often implies that the person feels in very great need or strongly desires help.
- People can plead or make an urgent appeal to God for mercy or to ask him to grant something, either for themselves or someone else.
- Other ways to translate this could include “beg” or “implore” or “urgently ask.”
- The term “plea” could also be translated as “urgent request” or “strong urging.”
- Make sure it is clear in the context that this term does not refer to begging for money.

Bible References:

- 2 Corinthians 8:3-5
- Judges 6:31
- Luke 4:39
- Proverbs 18:17

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1777, H2603, H3198, H4941, H4994, H6279, H6293, H6664, H6419, H7378, H7379, H7775, H8199, H8467, H8469, G11890, G17930, G20650, G38700

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:23](#); [3:18](#))

pledge, pledged

Definition:

The term “pledge” refers to formally and solemnly promising to do something or give something.

- In the Old Testament the officials of Israel pledged to be loyal to King David.
- The object given as a pledge would be returned to its owner when the promise was fulfilled.
- To “pledge” could be translate as to “formally commit to” or to “strongly promise.”
- The term “pledge” can also refer to an object given as a guarantee or promise that a debt will be paid.
- Ways to translate “a pledge” could include “a solemn promise” or “a formal commitment” or “a guarantee” or “a formal assurance,” depending on the context.

(See also: [promise](#), [oath](#), [vow](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Corinthians 5:4-5
- Exodus 22:26
- Genesis 38:17-18
- Nehemiah 10:28-29

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0781, H2254, H2258, H5667, H5671, H6148, H6161, H6162

(Go back to: [Exodus 22:26](#))

plow, plowed, plowers, plowman, plowshares, unplowed

Definition:

A “plow” is a farm tool that is used for breaking up soil to prepare a field for planting.

- Plows have sharp, pointed prongs that dig into the soil. They usually have handles that the farmer uses to guide the plow.
- In Bible times, plows were usually pulled by a pair of oxen or other work animals.
- Most plows were made of hard wood, except for the sharp points which were made of a metal, such as bronze or iron.

(See also: [bronze](#), [ox](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 8:10-12
- Deuteronomy 21:4
- Luke 9:62
- Luke 17:7
- Psalm 141:5-7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0406, H0855, H2758, H2790, H5215, H5647, H5656, H5674, H6213, H6398, G07220, G07230

(Go back to: [Exodus 34:21](#))

pomegranate

Facts:

A pomegranate is a kind of fruit that has a thick, tough skin filled with many seeds that are covered with edible red pulp.

- The outer rind is reddish in color and the pulp surrounding the seeds is shiny and red.
- Pomegranates are very commonly grown in countries with a hot, dry climate, such as Egypt and Israel.
- Yahweh promised the Israelites that Canaan was a land with abundant water and fertile soil so that food was plentiful there, including pomegranates.
- The construction of Solomon's temple included bronze decorations in the shape of pomegranates.

(See also: [bronze](#), [Canaan](#), [Egypt](#), Solomon, temple)

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 25:16-17
- Deuteronomy 8:7-8
- Jeremiah 52:22-23
- Numbers 13:23-24
- Numbers 20:5

Word Data:

- Strong's: H7416

(Go back to: [Exodus 28:33](#); [39:24](#))

possess, possessed, possession, dispossess

Facts:

The terms “possess” and “possession” usually refer to owning something. They can also mean to gain control over something or occupy an area of land.

- In the Old Testament, this term is often used in the context of “possessing” or “taking possession of” an area of land.
- When Yahweh commanded the Israelites to “possess” the land of Canaan, it meant that they should go into the land and live there. This involved first conquering the Canaanite peoples who were living on that land.
- Yahweh told the Israelites that he had given them the land of Canaan as “their possession.” This could also be translated as “their rightful place to live.”
- The people of Israel were also called Yahweh’s “special possession.” This means that they belonged to him as his people whom he had specifically called to worship and serve him.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “possess” could also be translated as “own” or “have” or “have charge over.”
- The phrase “take possession of” could be translated as “take control of” or “occupy” or “live on,” depending on the context.
- When referring to things that people own, “possessions” could be translated as “belongings” or “property” or “owned things” or “things they owned.”
- When Yahweh calls the Israelites, “my special possession” this could also be translated as “my special people” or “people who belong to me” or “my people whom I love and rule.”
- The sentence, “they will become their possession” when referring to land, means “they will occupy the land” or “the land will belong to them.”
- The expression, “found in his possession” could be translated as “that he was holding” or “that he had with him.”
- The phrase “as your possession” could also be translated as “as something that belongs to you” or “as a place where your people will live.”
- The phrase, “in his possession” could be translated as “that he owned” or “which belonged to him.”

(See also: [Canaan](#), [worship](#), [inherit](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 6:70
- 1 Kings 9:17-19
- Acts 2:45
- Deuteronomy 4:5-6
- Genesis 31:36-37
- Matthew 13:44

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0270, H0272, H0834, H2505, H2631, H3027, H3423, H3424, H3425, H3426, H4180, H4181, H4672, H4735, H4736, H5157, H5159, H5459, H7069, G11390, G21920, G26970, G27220, G29320, G29330, G29350, G40470, G52240, G55640

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:8](#); [15:9](#); [15:17](#); [19:5](#); [23:30](#))

power, powerful, powerfully

Definition:

The term “power” refers to the ability to do things or make things happen, often using great strength. “Powers” refers to people or spirits who have great ability to cause things to happen.

- The “power of God” refers to God’s ability to do everything, especially things that are not possible for people to do.
- God has complete power over everything that he has created.
- God gives his people power to do what he wants, so that when they heal people or do other miracles, they do this by the power of God.
- Because Jesus and the Holy Spirit are also God, they have this same power.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term “power” could also be translated as “ability” or “strength” or “energy” or “ability to do miracles” or “control.”
- Possible ways to translate the term “powers” could include “powerful beings” or “controlling spirits” or “those who control others.”

(See also: [strength](#), Holy Spirit, Jesus, [miracle](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 1:5
- Colossians 1:11-12
- Genesis 31:29
- Jeremiah 18:21
- Jude 1:25
- Judges 2:18
- Luke 1:17
- Luke 4:14
- Matthew 26:64
- Philippians 3:21
- Psalm 80:2

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **22:5** The angel explained, “The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the **power** of God will overshadow you. So the baby will be holy, the Son of God.”
- **26:1** After overcoming Satan’s temptations, Jesus returned in the **power** of the Holy Spirit to the region of Galilee where he lived.
- **32:15** Immediately Jesus realized that **power** had gone out from him.
- **42:11** Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he told his disciples, “Stay in Jerusalem until my Father gives you **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”
- **43:6** “Men of Israel, Jesus was a man who did many mighty signs and wonders by the **power** of God, as you have seen and already know.”
- **44:8** Peter answered them, “This man stands before you healed by the **power** of Jesus the Messiah.”

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0410, H1369, H1370, H2220, H2393, H2428, H2429, H2632, H3027, H3028, H3581, H4475, H4910, H5794, H5797, H5808, H6184, H7786, H7980, H7981, H7983, H7989, H8280, H8592, H8633, G14110, G14150, G17540, G17560, G18490, G18500, G21590, G24780, G24790, G29040, G31680

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:16](#); [15:6](#); [32:11](#))

praise, praised, praiseworthy

Definition:

To praise someone is to express admiration and honor for that person.

- People praise God because of how great he is and because of all the amazing things he has done as the Creator and Savior of the world.
- Praise for God often includes being thankful for what he has done.
- Music and singing is often used as a way to praise God.
- Praising God is part of what it means to worship him.
- The term to “praise” could also be translated as to “speak well of” or to “highly honor with words” or to “say good things about.”
- The noun “praise” could be translated as “spoken honor” or “speech that honors” or “speaking good things about.”

(See also: [worship](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Corinthians 1:3
- Acts 2:47
- Acts 13:48
- Daniel 3:28
- Ephesians 1:3
- Genesis 49:8
- James 3:9-10
- John 5:41-42
- Luke 1:46
- Luke 1:64-66
- Luke 19:37-38
- Matthew 11:25-27
- Matthew 15:29-31

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **12:13** The Israelites sang many songs to celebrate their new freedom and to **praise** God because he saved them from the Egyptian army.
- **17:8** When David heard these words, he immediately thanked and **praised** God because he had promised David this great honor and many blessings.
- **22:7** Zechariah said, “**Praise** God, because he has remembered his people!”
- **43:13** They (disciples) enjoyed **praising** God together and they shared everything they had with each other.
- **47:8** They put Paul and Silas in the most secure part of the prison and even locked up their feet. Yet in the middle of the night, they were singing songs of **praise** to God.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1319, H7121, H8416, G29800, G38530

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:11](#))

pray, prayer

Definition:

The terms “pray” and “prayer” refer to talking with God. These terms are also used to refer to people trying to talk to a false god.

- People can pray silently, talking to God with their thoughts, or they can pray aloud, speaking to God with their voice. Sometimes prayers are written down, such as when David wrote his prayers in the Book of Psalms.
- Prayer can include asking God for mercy, for help with a problem, and for wisdom in making decisions.
- Often people ask God to heal people who are sick or who need his help in other ways.
- People also thank and praise God when they are praying to him.
- Praying includes confessing our sins to God and asking him to forgive us.
- Talking to God is sometimes called “communing” with him as our spirit communicates with his spirit, sharing our emotions and enjoying his presence.
- This term could be translated as “talking to God” or “communicating with God.” The translation of this term should be able to include praying that is silent.

(See also: false god, [forgive](#), [praise](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 3:9
- Acts 8:24
- Acts 14:26
- Colossians 4:4
- John 17:9
- Luke 11:1
- Matthew 5:43-45
- Matthew 14:22-24

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **6:5** Isaac **prayed** for Rebekah, and God allowed her to get pregnant with twins.
- **13:12** But Moses **prayed** for them, and God listened to his **prayer** and did not destroy them.
- **19:8** Then the prophets of Baal **prayed** to Baal, “Hear us, O Baal!”
- **21:7** Priests also **prayed** to God for the people.
- **38:11** Jesus told his disciples to **pray** that they would not enter into temptation.
- **43:13** The disciples continually listened to the teaching of the apostles, spent time together, ate together, and **prayed** with each other.
- **49:18** God tells you to **pray**, to study his word, to worship him with other Christians, and to tell others what he has done for you.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0559, H0577, H1156, H2470, H3863, H3908, H4994, H6279, H6293, H6419, H6739, H7592, H7878, H7879, H7881, H8034, H8605, G01540, G11620, G11890, G17830, G20650, G21710, G21720, G38700, G43350, G43360

(Go back to: [Exodus 8:8](#); [8:9](#); [8:28](#); [8:29](#); [8:30](#); [10:17](#); [10:18](#); [34:11](#))

preach, preaching, preacher, proclaim, proclamation

Definition:

To “preach” means to speak to a group of people, teaching them about God and urging them to obey him. To “proclaim” means to announce or declare something publicly and boldly.

- Often preaching is done by one person to a large group of people. It is usually spoken, not written.
- “Preaching” and “teaching” are similar, but are not exactly the same.
- “Preaching” mainly refers to publicly proclaiming spiritual or moral truth, and urging the audience to respond. “Teaching” is a term that emphasizes instruction, that is, giving people information or teaching them how to do something.
- The term “preach” is usually used with the word “gospel.”
- What a person has preached to others can also be referred to in general as his “teachings.”
- Often in the Bible, “proclaim” means to announce publicly something that God has commanded, or to tell others about God and how great he is.
- In the New Testament, the apostles proclaimed the good news about Jesus to many people in many different cities and regions.
- The term “proclaim” can also be used for decrees made by kings or for denouncing evil in a public way.
- Other ways to translate “proclaim” could include “announce” or “openly preach” or “publicly declare.”
- The term “proclamation” could also be translated as “announcement” or “public preaching.”

(See also: [declare](#), good news, Jesus, kingdom of God)

Bible References:

- 2 Timothy 4:1-2
- Acts 8:4-5
- Acts 10:42-43
- Acts 14:21-22
- Acts 20:25
- Luke 4:42
- Matthew 3:1-3
- Matthew 4:17
- Matthew 12:41
- Matthew 24:14
- Acts 9:20-22
- Acts 13:38-39
- Jonah 3:1-3
- Luke 4:18-19
- Mark 1:14-15
- Matthew 10:26

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **24:2** He (John) **preached** to them, saying, “Repent, for the Kingdom of God is near!”
- **30:1** Jesus sent his apostles to **preach** and to teach people in many different villages.
- **38:1** About three years after Jesus first began **preaching** and teaching publicly, Jesus told his disciples that he wanted to celebrate this Passover with them in Jerusalem, and that he would be killed there.
- **45:6** But in spite of this, they **preached** about Jesus everywhere they went.
- **45:7** He (Philip) went to Samaria where he preached about Jesus and many people were saved.
- **46:6** Right away, Saul began **preaching** to the Jews in Damascus, saying, “Jesus is the Son of God!”
- **46:10** Then they sent them off to **preach** the good news of Jesus in many other places.

- **47:14** Paul and other Christian leaders traveled to many cities, **preaching** and teaching people the good news about Jesus.
- **50:2** When Jesus was living on earth he said, "My disciples will **preach** the good news about the kingdom of God to people everywhere in the world, and then the end will come."

Word Data:

- Strong's:
 - preach: H1319, H7121, H7150, G12290, G20970, G26050, G27820, G27830, G27840, G29800, G42830
 - proclaim: H1319, H1696, H1697, H2199, H3045, H3745, H4161, H5046, H5608, H6963, H7121, H7440, H8085, G51800, G59100, G12290, G18610, G20970, G26050, G27820, G27840, G29800, G31420, G41350

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:16](#); [10:2](#))

precious, valuable, expensive, fine

Facts:

The term “precious” describes people or things that are considered to be very valuable.

- The term “precious stones” or “precious jewels” refers to rocks and minerals that are colorful or have other qualities that make them beautiful or useful.
- Examples of precious stones include diamonds, rubies, and emeralds.
- Gold and silver are called “precious metals.”
- Yahweh says that his people are “precious” in his sight (Isaiah 43:4).
- Peter wrote that a gentle and quiet spirit is precious in God’s sight (1 Peter 3:4).
- This term could also be translated as “valuable” or “very dear” or “cherished” or “highly valued.”

(See also: [gold](#), [silver](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Peter 1:1
- Acts 20:22-24
- Daniel 11:38-39
- Lamentations 1:7
- Luke 7:2-5
- Psalms 36:8

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0068, H1431, H2532, H2667, H2896, H3357, H3365, H3366, H3368, H4022, H4030, H4261, H4262, H5238, H8443, G09270, G17840, G24720, G41850, G41860, G50920, G50930

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:7](#); [28:17](#); [28:21](#); [31:5](#); [35:9](#); [35:27](#); [35:33](#))

priest, priesthood

Definition:

In the Bible, a priest was someone who was chosen to offer sacrifices to God on behalf of God's people. The "priesthood" was the name for the office or condition of being a priest.

- In the Old Testament, God chose Aaron and his descendants to be his priests for the people of Israel.
- The "priesthood" was a right and a responsibility that was passed down from father to son in the Levite clan.
- The Israelite priests had the responsibility of offering the people's sacrifices to God, along with other duties in the temple.
- Priests also offered regular prayers to God on behalf of his people and performed other religious rites.
- The priests pronounced formal blessings on people and taught them God's laws.
- In Jesus' time, there were different levels of priests, including the chief priests and the high priest.
- Jesus is our "great high priest" who intercedes for us in God's presence. He offered himself as the ultimate sacrifice for sin. This means that the sacrifices made by human priests are no longer needed.
- In the New Testament, every believer in Jesus is called a "priest" who can come directly to God in prayer to intercede for himself and other people.
- In ancient times, there were also pagan priests who presented offerings to false gods such as Baal.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term "priest" could be translated as "sacrifice person" or "God's intermediary" or "sacrificial mediator" or "person God appoints to represent him."
- The translation of "priest" should be different from the translation of "mediator."
- Some translations may prefer to always say something like "Israelite priest" or "Jewish priest" or "Yahweh's priest" or "priest of Baal" to make it clear that this does not refer to a modern-day type of priest.
- The term used to translate "priest" should be different from the terms for "chief priest" and "high priest" and "Levite" and "prophet."

(See also: [Aaron](#), high priest, mediator, [sacrifice](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 6:41
- Genesis 14:17-18
- Genesis 47:22
- John 1:19-21
- Luke 10:31
- Mark 1:44
- Mark 2:25-26
- Matthew 8:4
- Matthew 12:4
- Micah 3:9-11
- Nehemiah 10:28-29
- Nehemiah 10:34-36
- Revelation 1:6

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **4:7** "Melchizedek, the **priest** of God Most High"

- **13:9** Anyone who disobeyed God's law could bring an animal to the altar in front of the Tent of Meeting as a sacrifice to God. A **priest** would kill the animal and burn it on the altar. The blood of the animal that was sacrificed covered the person's sin and made that person clean in God's sight. God chose Moses' brother, Aaron, and Aaron's descendants to be his **priests**.
- **19:7** So the **priests** of Baal prepared a sacrifice but did not light the fire.
- **21:7** An Israelite **priest** was someone who made sacrifices to God on behalf of the people as a substitute for the punishment of their sins. **Priests** also prayed to God for the people.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3547, H3548, H3549, H3550, G07480, G07490, G24050, G24060, G24070, G24090, G24200

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:16](#); [3:1](#); [18:1](#); [Notes](#); [19:6](#); [19:22](#); [19:24](#); [Notes](#); [28:1](#); [28:3](#); [28:4](#); [28:41](#); [Notes](#); [29:1](#); [29:9](#); [29:30](#); [29:44](#); [30:30](#); [31:10](#); [35:19](#); [38:21](#); [39:41](#); [40:13](#); [40:15](#))

profane, profaned

Definition:

To profane something means to act in a way that defiles, pollutes, or disrespects something that is holy.

- A profane person is one who acts in a way that is unholy and dishonoring of God.
- The verb to “profane” could be translated as to “treat as unholy” or to “be irreverent toward” or to “dishonor.”
- God told the Israelites that they “profaned” themselves with idols, meaning that the people were making themselves “unclean” or “dishonored” by this sin. They were also dishonoring God.
- Depending on the context, the adjective “profane” could be translated as “dishonoring” or “godless” or “unholy.”

(See also: [defile](#), [holy](#), [clean](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Timothy 2:16-18
- Ezekiel 20:9
- Malachi 1:10-12
- Matthew 12:5
- Numbers 18:30-32

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2455, H2490, H2491, H5234, H8610, G09520, G09530

(Go back to: [Exodus 31:14](#))

promise, promised

Definition:

When used as a verb, the term “promise” refers to the action of a person saying that he will do something in such way that he obligates himself to fulfill what he has said. When used as a noun, the term “promise” refers to the thing that a person obligates himself to do.

- The Bible records many promises that God has made for his people.
- Promises are an important part of formal agreements such as covenants.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “promise” could be translated as “commitment” or “assurance” or “guarantee.”
- To “promise to do something” could be translated as “assure someone that you will do something” or “commit to doing something.”

(See also: [covenant](#), [oath](#), [vow](#))

Bible References:

- Galatians 3:15-16
- Genesis 25:31-34
- Hebrews 11:9
- James 1:12
- Numbers 30:2

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **3:15** God said, “I **promise** I will never again curse the ground because of the evil things people do, or destroy the world by causing a flood, even though people are sinful from the time they are children.”[⚡]
- **3:16** God then made the first rainbow as a sign of his **promise**. Every time the rainbow appeared in the sky, God would remember what he **promised** and so would his people.
- **4:8** God spoke to Abram and **promised** again that he would have a son and as many descendants as the stars in the sky. Abram believed God’s **promise**.
- **5:4** “Your wife, Sarai, will have a son—he will be the son of **promise**.”
- **8:15** The covenant **promises** that God gave to Abraham were passed on to Isaac, then to Jacob, and then to Jacob’s twelve sons and their families.
- **17:14** Though David had been unfaithful to God, God was still faithful to his **promises**.
- **50:1** Jesus **promised** he would return at the end of the world. Though he has not yet come back, he will keep his **promise**.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0559, H0562, H1696, H8569, G18430, G18600, G18610, G18620, G36700, G42790

(Go back to: [Exodus 24 General Notes](#))

Promised Land

Facts:

The term "Promised Land" only occurs in the Bible stories, not the Bible text. It is an alternate way of referring to the land of Canaan which God had promised to give to Abraham and his descendants.

- When Abram was living in the city of Ur, God commanded him to go live in the land of Canaan. He and his descendants, the Israelites, lived there for many years.
- When a severe famine caused there to be no food in Canaan, the Israelites moved to Egypt.
- Four hundred years later, God rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and brought them back to Canaan again, the land God had promised to give them.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "Promised Land" can be translated as the "land that God said he would give to Abraham" or "land that God promised to Abraham" or "land God promised to his people" or "land of Canaan."
- In the Bible text, this term occurs as some form of "the land God promised."

(See also: [Canaan](#), [promise](#))

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 8:1-2
- Ezekiel 7:26-27

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **12:1** They (Israelites) were no longer slaves, and they were going to the **Promised Land!**
- **14:1** After God had told the Israelites the laws he wanted them to obey as part of his covenant with them, God began leading them from Mount Sinai toward the **Promised Land**, which was also called Canaan.
- **14:2** God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give the **Promised Land** to their descendants, but now there were many people groups living there.
- **14:14** Then God led the people to the edge of the **Promised Land** again.
- **15:2** The Israelites had to cross the Jordan River to enter into the **Promised Land**.
- **15:12** After this battle, God gave each tribe of Israel its own section of the **Promised Land**.
- **20:9** This period of time when God's people were forced to leave the **Promised Land** is called the Exile.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0776, H3068, H3423, H5159, H5414, H7650

(Go back to: [Exodus 6 General Notes](#))

prophet, prophecy, prophesy, seer, prophetess

Definition:

A “prophet” is a man who speaks God’s messages to people. A woman who does this is called a “prophetess.”

- Often prophets warned people to turn away from their sins and obey God.
- A “prophecy” is the message that the prophet speaks. To “prophesy” means to speak God’s messages.
- Often the message of a prophecy was about something that would happen in the future.
- Many prophecies in the Old Testament have already been fulfilled.
- In the Bible the collection of books written by prophets are sometimes referred to as “the prophets.”
- For example the phrase, “the law and the prophets” is a way of referring to all the Hebrew scriptures, which are also known as the “Old Testament.”
- An older term for a prophet was “seer” or “someone who sees.”
- Sometimes the term “seer” refers to a false prophet or to someone who practices divination.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “prophet” could be translated as “God’s spokesman” or “man who speaks for God” or “man who speaks God’s messages.”
- A “seer” could be translated as “person who sees visions” or “man who sees the future from God.”
- The term “prophetess” could be translated as “spokeswoman for God” or “woman who speaks for God” or “woman who speaks God’s messages.”
- Ways to translate “prophecy” could include, “message from God” or “prophet message.”
- The term “prophesy” could be translated as “speak words from God” or “tell God’s message.”
- The figurative expression, “law and the prophets” could also be translated as “the books of the law and of the prophets” or “everything written about God and his people, including God’s laws and what his prophets preached.” (See: [synecdoche](#))
- When referring to a prophet (or seer) of a false god, it may be necessary to translate this as “false prophet (seer)” or “prophet (seer) of a false god” or “prophet of Baal,” for example.

(See also: Baal, divination, false god, false prophet, [fulfill](#), [law](#), vision)

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16
- Acts 3:25
- John 1:43-45
- Malachi 4:4-6
- Matthew 1:23
- Matthew 2:18
- Matthew 5:17
- Psalm 51:1

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **12:12** When the Israelites saw that the Egyptians were dead, they trusted in God and believed that Moses was a **prophet** of God.
- **17:13** God was very angry about what David had done, so he sent the **prophet** Nathan to tell David how evil his sin was.
- **19:1** Throughout the history of the Israelites, God sent them **prophets**. The **prophets** heard messages from God and then told the people God’s messages.

- **19:6** All the people of the entire kingdom of Israel, including the 450 **prophets** of Baal, came to Mount Carmel.
- **19:17** Most of the time, the people did not obey God. They often mistreated the **prophets** and sometimes even killed them.
- **21:9** The **prophet** Isaiah **prophesied** that the Messiah would be born from a virgin.
- **43:5** "This fulfills the **prophecy** made by the **prophet** Joel in which God said, 'In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit.'"
- **43:7** "This fulfills the **prophecy** which says, 'You will not let your Holy One rot in the grave.'"
- **48:12** Moses was a great **prophet** who proclaimed the word of God. But Jesus is the greatest **prophet** of all. He is the Word of God.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2372, H2374, H4853, H5012, H5013, H5016, H5017, H5029, H5030, H5031, H5197, G24950, G43940, G43950, G43960, G43970, G43980, G55780

(Go back to: [Exodus 7:1](#); [15:20](#))

prostitute, harlot, whored

Definition:

The terms “prostitute” and “harlot” both refer to a person who performs sexual acts for money or for religious rites. Prostitutes or harlots were usually female, but some were male.

- In the Bible, the word “prostitute” is sometimes used figuratively to refer to a person who worships false gods or who practices witchcraft.
- The expression “play the harlot” means to act like a harlot by being sexually immoral. This expression is also used in the Bible to refer to a person who worships idols.
- To “prostitute oneself” to something means to be sexually immoral or when used figuratively, to be unfaithful to God by worshipping false gods.
- In ancient times, some pagan temples used male and female prostitutes as part of their rituals.
- This term could be translated by the word or phrase that is used in the project language to refer to a prostitute. Some languages may have a euphemistic term that is used for this. (See: [euphemism](#))

(See also: [adultery](#), false god, sexual immorality, false god)

Bible References:

- Genesis 34:31
- Genesis 38:21
- Luke 15:30
- Matthew 21:31

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2154, H2181, H2183, H2185, H6945, H6948, H8457, G42040

(Go back to: [Exodus 34:15](#); [34:16](#))

prostrate

Definition:

The term “prostrate” means to be lying face down, stretched out on the ground.

- To “fall prostrate” or to “prostrate oneself” before someone means to suddenly bow down very low or in front of that person.
- Usually this position of being prostrate is a response that shows shock, amazement, and awe because of something miraculous that happened. It also shows honor and respect for the person being bowed to.
- Being prostrate also was a way to worship God. People often responded this way to Jesus in thanksgiving and worship when he did a miracle or to honor him as a great teacher.
- Depending on the context, ways to translate “prostrated” could include “bowed down low with the face to the ground” or “worshiped him by lying face down in front of him” or “bowed down low to the ground in amazement” or “worshiped.”
- The phrase “will not prostrate ourselves” could be translated as “will not worship” or “will not lie face down in worship” or “will not bow down and worship.”
- “Prostrate himself to” could also be translated as “worship” or “bow down in front of.”

(See also: awe, [bow](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 17:36-38
- Genesis 43:28
- Revelation 19:3-4

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5307, H5457, H6440, H6915, H7812

(Go back to: [Exodus 34:8](#))

prostrate, bow down, worship

Definition:

To “prostrate” oneself means to lie flat on the ground, usually in submission to a person of authority such as a king or some other powerful person. This same term can also mean to “worship,” referring to the actions of honoring, praising, and obeying God.

- This term often means literally “bow down” or “prostrate oneself” to humbly honor someone.
- We worship God when we serve and honor him, by praising him and obeying him.
- When the Israelites worshiped God, it often included sacrificing an animal on an altar.
- This term can be used both of people who worship Yahweh as the One True God and others who worship false gods.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “worship” could be translated as “bow down to” or “honor and serve” or “honor and obey.”
- In some contexts, it could also be translated as “humbly praise” or “give honor and praise.”

(See also: [bow](#), [fear](#), [sacrifice](#), [praise](#), [honor](#))

Bible References:

- Colossians 2:18-19
- Deuteronomy 29:18
- Exodus 3:11-12
- Luke 4:7
- Matthew 2:2
- Matthew 2:8

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **13:4** Then God gave them the covenant and said, “I am Yahweh, your God, who saved you from slavery in Egypt. Do not **worship** other gods.”
- **14:2** The Canaanites did not **worship** or obey God. They **worshiped** false gods and did many evil things.
- **17:6** David wanted to build a temple where all the Israelites could **worship** God and offer him sacrifices.
- **18:12** All of the kings and most of the people of the kingdom of Israel **worshiped** idols.
- **25:7** Jesus replied, “Get away from me, Satan! In God’s word he commands his people, **Worship** only the Lord your God and only serve him.”
- **26:2** On the Sabbath, he (Jesus) went to the place of **worship**.
- **47:1** There they met a woman named Lydia who was a merchant. She loved and **worshiped** God.
- **49:18** God tells you to pray, to study his word, to **worship** him with other Christians, and to tell others what he has done for you.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H5457, H5647, H6087, H7812, G13910, G14790, G21510, G23180, G23230, G23560, G30000, G35110, G43520, G43530, G45730, G45740, G45760

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:31](#); [12:27](#); [24:1](#))

proud, pride, prideful

Definition:

The terms “proud” and “prideful” refer to a person thinking too highly of himself, and especially, thinking that he is better than other people.

- A proud person often does not admit his own faults. He is not humble.
- Pride can lead to disobeying God in other ways.
- The terms “proud” and “pride” can also be used in a positive sense, such as being “proud of” what someone else has achieved and being “proud of” your children. The expression “take pride in your work” means to find joy in doing your work well.
- Someone can be proud of what he has done without being prideful about it. Some languages have different words for these two different meanings of “pride.”
- The term “prideful” is always negative, with the meaning of being “arrogant” or “conceited” or “self-important.”

Translation Suggestions:

- The noun “pride” could be translated as “arrogance” or “conceit” or “self-importance.”
- In other contexts, “pride” could be translated as “joy” or “satisfaction” or “pleasure.”
- To be “proud of” could also be translated as “happy with” or “satisfied with” or “joyful about (the accomplishments of).”
- The phrase “take pride in your work” could be translated as “find satisfaction in doing your work well.”
- The expression “take pride in Yahweh” could also be translated as “be delighted about all the wonderful things Yahweh has done” or “be happy about how amazing Yahweh is.”

(See also: arrogant, [humble](#), [joy](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Timothy 3:6-7
- 2 Corinthians 1:12
- Galatians 6:3-5
- Isaiah 13:19
- Luke 1:51

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **4:2** They were very **proud**, and they did not care about what God said.
- **34:10** Then Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, God heard the tax collector’s prayer and declared him to be righteous. But he did not like the prayer of the religious leader. God will humble everyone who is **proud**, and he will lift up whoever humbles himself.”

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1341, H1343, H1344, H1346, H1347, H1348, H1349, H1361, H1362, H1363, H1364, H1396, H1466, H1467, H1984, H2086, H2087, H3093, H3238, H3513, H4062, H1431, H4791, H5965, H7295, H7312, H7342, H7311, H7830, H8597, G13910, G13920, G27440, G27450, G27460, G31730, G51870, G52290, G52430, G52440, G53080, G53090, G54260

(Go back to: [Exodus 18:11](#))

pure, purify, purification

Definition:

To be “pure” means to have no flaw or to have nothing mixed in that is not supposed to be there. To purify something is to cleanse it and remove anything that contaminates or pollutes it.

- In regard to Old Testament laws, “purify” and “purification” refer mainly to the cleansing from things that make an object or a person ritually unclean, such as disease, body fluids, or childbirth.
- The Old Testament also had laws telling people how to be purified from sin, usually by the sacrifice of an animal. This was only temporary and the sacrifices had to be repeated over and over again.
- In the New Testament, to be purified often refers to being cleansed from sin.
- The only way that people can be completely and permanently purified from sin is through repenting and receiving God’s forgiveness, through trusting in Jesus and his sacrifice.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “purify” could be translated as “make pure” or “cleanse” or “cleanse from all contamination” or “get rid of all sin.”
- A phrase such as “when the time for their purification was over” could be translated as “when they had purified themselves by waiting the required number of days.”
- The phrase “provided purification for sins” could be translated as “provided a way for people to be completely cleansed from their sin.”
- Other ways to translate “purification” could include “cleansing” or “spiritual washing” or “becoming ritually clean.”

(See also: [atonement](#), [clean](#), [spirit](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Timothy 1:5
- Exodus 31:6-9
- Hebrews 9:13-15
- James 4:8
- Luke 2:22
- Revelation 14:4

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1249, H1252, H1253, H1305, H1865, H2134, H2135, H2141, H2212, H2398, H2403, H2561, H2889, H2890, H2891, H2892, H2893, H3795, H3800, H4795, H5343, H5462, H6337, H6884, H6942, H8562, G00480, G00490, G00530, G00540, G15060, G25110, G25120, G25130, G25140

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:11](#); [25:17](#); [25:24](#); [25:29](#); [25:31](#); [25:36](#); [25:38](#); [25:39](#); [28:14](#); [28:22](#); [28:36](#); [29:14](#); [29:36](#); [30:3](#); [30:10](#); [30:35](#); [37:2](#); [37:6](#); [37:11](#); [37:16](#); [37:17](#); [37:22](#); [37:23](#); [37:24](#); [37:26](#); [37:29](#); [39:15](#); [39:25](#); [39:30](#); [39:37](#))

purple

Facts:

The term “purple” is the name of a color that is a mixture of blue and red.

- In ancient times, purple was a rare and highly valuable color of dye that was used to dye the clothing of kings and other high officials.
- Because it was costly and time-consuming to produce this dye, purple clothing was considered a sign of wealth, distinction, and royalty.
- Purple was also one of the colors used for the curtains in the tabernacle and temple, and for the ephod worn by the priests.
- Purple dye was extracted from a kind of sea snail by either crushing or boiling the snails or by causing them to release the dye while still alive. This was an expensive process.
- Roman soldiers put a purple royal robe on Jesus before his crucifixion, to mock him for his claim to be King of the Jews.
- Lydia from the town of Philippi was a woman who made her living by selling purple cloth.

(Translation suggestions: [Translate Names](#))

(See also: [ephod](#), [Philippi](#), [royal](#), [tabernacle](#), [temple](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 2:13-14
- Daniel 5:7
- Daniel 5:29-31
- Proverbs 31:22-23

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0710, H0711, H0713, G42090, G42100, G42110

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:4](#); [26:1](#); [26:31](#); [26:36](#); [27:16](#); [28:5](#); [28:6](#); [28:8](#); [28:15](#); [28:33](#); [35:6](#); [35:23](#); [35:25](#); [35:35](#); [36:8](#); [36:35](#); [36:37](#); [38:18](#); [38:23](#); [39:1](#); [39:2](#); [39:3](#); [39:5](#); [39:8](#); [39:24](#); [39:29](#))

raise, rise, lift, get up, stir up,

Definition:

raise, raise up

In general, the word “raise” means to “lift up” or “make higher.”

- The phrase “raise up” sometimes means to cause something to come into being or to appear. It can also mean to appoint someone to do something.
- Sometimes “raise up” means to “restore” or “rebuild.”
- “Raise” has a specialized meaning in the phrase “raise from the dead.” It means to cause a dead person to become alive again.
- Sometimes “raise up” means to “exalt” someone or something.

rise, arise

To “rise” or “arise” means to “go up” or “get up.” The terms “risen,” “rose,” and “arose” express past action.

- When a person gets up to go somewhere, this is sometimes expressed as “he arose and went” or “he rose up and went.”
- If something “arises” it means it “happens” or “begins to happen.”
- Jesus predicted that he would “rise from the dead.” Three days after Jesus died, the angel said, “He has risen!”

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “raise” or “raise up” could be translated as “lift up” or “make higher.”
- To “raise up” could also be translated as to “cause to appear” or to “appoint” or to “bring into existence.”
- To “raise up the strength of your enemies” could be translated as “cause your enemies to be very strong.”
- The phrase “raise someone from the dead” could be translated as “cause someone to return from death to life” or “cause someone to come back to life.”
- Depending on the context, “raise up” could also be translated as “provide” or to “appoint” or to “cause to have” or “build up” or “rebuild” or “repair.”
- The phrase “arose and went” could be translated as “got up and went” or “went.”
- Depending on the context, the term “arose” could also be translated as “began” or “started up” or “got up” or “stood up.”

(See also: resurrection, [appoint](#), [exalt](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 6:41
- 2 Samuel 7:12
- Acts 10:40
- Colossians 3:1
- Deuteronomy 13:1-3
- Jeremiah 6:1
- Judges 2:18
- Luke 7:22
- Matthew 20:19

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **21:14** The prophets foretold that the Messiah would die and that God would also **raise** him from the dead.
- **41:5** "Jesus is not here. He has **risen** from the dead, just like he said he would!"
- **43:7** "Although Jesus died, God **raised** him from the dead. This fulfills the prophecy which says, 'You will not let your Holy One rot in the grave.' We are witnesses to the fact that God **raised** Jesus to life again."
- **44:5** "You killed the author of life, but God **raised** him from the dead."
- **44:8** Peter answered them, "This man stands before you healed by the power of Jesus the Messiah. You crucified Jesus, but God **raised** him to life again!"
- **48:4** This meant that Satan would kill the Messiah, but God would **raise** him to life again, and then the Messiah will crush the power of Satan forever.
- **49:2** He (Jesus) walked on water, calmed storms, healed many sick people, drove out demons, **raised** the dead to life, and turned five loaves of bread and two small fish into enough food for over 5,000 people.
- **49:12** You must believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that he died on the cross instead of you, and that God **raised** him to life again.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2210, H2224, H5549, H5782, H5927, H5975, H6965, H6966, H6974, H7613, G03050, G03860, G03930, G04500, G10960, G13260, G14530, G15250, G18170, G18250, G18920, G19990, G48910

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:17](#); [10:23](#); [12:30](#); [21:19](#); [32:1](#); [40:2](#); [40:17](#); [40:18](#); [40:33](#))

ransom, ransomed

Definition:

The term “ransom” refers to a sum of money or other payment that is demanded or paid for the release of a person who is held captive.

- As a verb, to “ransom” means to make a payment or to do something self-sacrificially in order to rescue someone who has been captured, enslaved or imprisoned. This meaning of “buy back” is similar to the meaning of “redeem.”
- Jesus allowed himself to be killed as a ransom to free sinful people from their enslavement to sin. This act of God buying back his people through paying the penalty of their sin is also called “redemption” in the Bible.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term to “ransom” could also be translated as to “pay to release” or to “pay a price to free” or to “buy back.”
- The phrase to “pay a ransom” could be translated as to “pay the price (of freedom)” or to “pay the penalty (to free people)” or to “make the required payment.”
- The noun “ransom” could be translated as “a buying back” or “a penalty paid” or “the price paid” (to free or buy back people or land).
- The terms a “ransom” and a “redemption” have the same meaning in English but are sometimes used slightly differently. Other languages may have only one term for this concept.
- Make sure this is translated differently from “atonement.”

(See also: [atonement](#), [redeem](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Timothy 2:6
- Isaiah 43:3
- Job 6:23
- Leviticus 19:20
- Matthew 20:28
- Psalms 49:7

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1350, H3724, H6299, H6306, G04870, G30830

(Go back to: [Exodus 13:13](#); [13:15](#); [21:30](#); [30:12](#); [30:15](#); [30:16](#); [34:20](#))

redeem, redeemer, redemption

Definition:

The term “redeem” refers to buying back something or someone that has been previously owned or held captive. A “redeemer” is someone who redeems something or someone.

- God gave laws to the Israelites about how to redeem people or things. For example, someone could redeem a person who was in slavery by paying the price so that the slave could go free. The word “ransom” also refers to this practice.
- If someone’s land had been sold, a relative of that person could “redeem” or “buy back” that land so that it would stay in the family.
- These practices show how God redeems people who are in slavery to sin. When he died on the cross, Jesus paid the full price for people’s sins and redeemed all those who trust in him for salvation. People who have been redeemed by God are set free from sin and its punishment.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term “redeem” could also be translated as “buy back” or “pay to free (someone)” or “ransom.”
- The term “redemption” could be translated as “ransom” or “freedom payment” or “buying back.”
- The words “ransom” and “redeem” have basically the same meaning, so some languages may have only one term to translate both these words. The word “ransom,” however, can also mean the payment necessary to “redeem” something or someone. The term “redeem” never refers to the actual payment itself.

(See also: [free](#), [ransom](#))

Bible References:

- Colossians 1:13-14
- Ephesians 1:7-8
- Ephesians 5:16
- Galatians 3:13-14
- Galatians 4:5
- Luke 2:38
- Ruth 2:20

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1350, H1353, H6299, H6302, H6304, H6306, H6561, H7069, G00590, G06290, G18050, G30840, G30850

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:6](#); [15:13](#))

reed

Facts:

The term “reed” refers to a plant with a long stalk that grows in the water, usually along the edge of a river or stream.

- The reeds in the Nile River where Moses was hidden as a baby were also called “bulrushes.” They were tall, hollow stalks growing in dense clumps in the river water.
- These fibrous plants were used in ancient Egypt for making paper, baskets, and boats.
- The stalk of the reed plant is flexible and is easily bent over by the wind.

(Translation suggestions: [Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Egypt](#), [Moses](#), [Nile River](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 14:15
- Luke 7:24
- Matthew 11:7
- Matthew 12:20
- Psalm 68:30

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0098, H0100, H0260, H5488, H6169, H7070, G25630

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:3](#); [2:5](#))

reign, rule

Definition:

The term to “reign” means to rule over the people of a particular country or kingdom. The reign of a king is the time period during which he is ruling.

- The term “reign” is also used to refer to God reigning as king over the entire world.
- God allowed human kings to reign over Israel after the people rejected him as their king.
- When Jesus Christ returns, he will openly reign as king over the whole world, and Christians will reign with Him.
- This term could also be translated as “absolute rule” or “rule as king.”

(See also: [kingdom](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Timothy 2:11-13
- Genesis 36:34-36
- Luke 1:30-33
- Luke 19:26-27
- Matthew 2:22-23

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3427, H4427, H4437, H4438, H4467, H4468, H4475, H4791, H4910, H6113, H7287, H7786, G07570, G09360, G22310, G48210

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:18](#))

remnant

Definition:

The term “remnant” literally refers to people or things that are “remaining” or “left over” from a larger amount or group.

- Often a “remnant” refers to people who survive a life-threatening situation or who remain faithful to God while undergoing persecution.
- Isaiah referred to a group of Jews as being a remnant who would survive attacks from outsiders and live to return to the Promised Land in Canaan.
- Paul talks about there being a “remnant” of people who were chosen by God to receive his grace.
- The term “remnant” also implies that there were other people who did not remain or were not left over.

Translation Suggestions:

- A phrase such as “the remnant of this people” could be translated as “the rest of these people” or “the people who are left.”
- The “whole remnant of people” could be translated by “all the rest of the people” or “the remaining people.”

Bible References:

- Acts 15:17
- Amos 9:12
- Ezekiel 6:8-10
- Genesis 45:7
- Isaiah 11:11
- Micah 4:6-8

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3498, H3499, H5629, H6413, H7604, H7605, H7611, H8281, H8300, G26400, G30050, G30620

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:5](#))

repent, repentance

Definition:

The terms “repent” and “repentance” refer to turning away from sin and turning back to God.

- To “repent” literally means to “change one’s mind.”
- In the Bible, “repent” usually means to turn away from a sinful, human way of thinking and acting, and to turn to God’s way of thinking and acting.
- When people truly repent of their sins, God forgives them and helps them start obeying him.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “repent” can be translated with a word or phrase that means “turn back (to God)” or “turn away from sin and toward God” or “turn toward God, away from sin.”
- Often the term “repentance” can be translated using the verb “repent.” For example, “God has given repentance to Israel” could be translated as “God has enabled Israel to repent.”
- Other ways to translate “repentance” could include “turning away from sin” or “turning to God and away from sin.”

(See also: [forgive](#), [sin](#), [turn](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 3:19-20
- Luke 3:3
- Luke 3:8
- Luke 5:32
- Luke 24:47
- Mark 1:14-15
- Matthew 3:3
- Matthew 3:11
- Matthew 4:17
- Romans 2:4

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **16:2** After many years of disobeying God and being oppressed by their enemies, the Israelites **repented** and asked God to rescue them.
- **17:13** David **repented** of his sin and God forgave him.
- **19:18** They (prophets) warned people that God would destroy them if they did not **repent**.
- **24:2** Many people came out to the wilderness to listen to John. He preached to them, saying, “**Repent**, for the kingdom of God is near!”
- **42:8** “It was also written in the scriptures that my disciples will proclaim that everyone should repent in order to **receive** forgiveness for their sins.”
- **44:5** “So now, **repent** and turn to God so that your sins will be washed away.”

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H5150, H5162, H5164, G02780, G33380, G33400, G33410

(Go back to: [Exodus 13:17](#); [32:12](#); [32:14](#))

report, reported, tell, reputation

Definition:

The term to “report” means to tell people about something that happened, often giving details about that event. A “report” is what is told, and can be spoken or written.

- “Report” could also be translated as “tell” or “explain” or “tell the details of.”
- The expression “Report this to no one” could be translated as “Don’t talk about this with anyone” or “Don’t tell anyone about this.”
- Ways to translate “a report” could include “an explanation” or “a story” or “a detailed account,” depending on the context.

Bible References:

- Acts 5:22-23
- John 12:38
- Luke 5:15
- Luke 8:34-35
- Matthew 28:15

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1681, H1696, H1697, H5046, H7725, H8034, H8052, H8085, H8088, H8089, G01890, G01910, G03120, G05180, G09870, G12250, G13100, G18340, G20360, G21630, G30040, G30560, G31400, G33770

(Go back to: [Exodus 23:1](#))

rest, rested, restless

Definition:

The term “rest” generally means to stop working in order to relax or regain strength. However, the term can refer to various kinds of rest besides only rest from working. For example, a person might rest from fighting, rest from speaking, or rest from moving, etc.

- An object can be said to be “resting” somewhere, which means it is “standing” or “sitting” there.
- Something that “comes to rest” somewhere has “stopped” there.
- When a person or animals rest, they are sitting or lying down in order to refresh themselves.
- God commanded the Israelites to rest on the seventh day of the week. This day of not working was called the “Sabbath” day.
- To rest an object on something means to “place” or “put” it there.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, to “rest (oneself)” could also be translated as to “stop working” or to “refresh himself” or to “stop carrying burdens.”
- To “rest” an object on something could be translated as to “place” or “put” or “set” that object on something.
- When Jesus said, “I will give you rest,” this could also be translated as “I will cause you to stop carrying your burden” or “I will help you be at peace” or “I will empower you to relax and trust in me.”
- God said, “they will not enter my rest,” and this statement could be translated as “they will not experience my blessings of rest” or “they will not experience the joy and peace that comes from trusting in me.”
- The term “the rest” could be translated as “those that remain” or “all the other people” or “everything that is left.”

(See also: [remnant](#), [Sabbath](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 6:41
- Genesis 2:3
- Jeremiah 6:16-19
- Matthew 11:29
- Revelation 14:11

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0014, H1824, H1826, H2308, H3498, H3499, H4494, H4496, H4771, H5117, H5118, H5183, H5564, H6314, H7258, H7280, H7599, H7604, H7605, H7606, H7611, H7673, H7677, H7901, H7931, H7954, H8058, H8172, H8252, H8300, G03720, G03730, G04250, G15150, G18790, G19540, G19810, G22700, G26630, G26640, G26810, G28380, G30620, G45200

(Go back to: [Exodus 5:5](#); [10:14](#); [20:11](#); [23:12](#); [33:14](#); [34:21](#); [35:2](#))

restore, restoration

Definition:

The terms “restore” and “restoration” refer to causing something to return to its original place or condition.

- When a diseased body part is restored, this means it has been “healed.”
- A broken relationship that is restored has been “reconciled.” God restores sinful people and brings them back to himself.
- If people have been restored to their home country, they have been “brought back” or “returned” to that country.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, ways to translate “restore” could include “renew” or “repay” or “return” or “heal” or “bring back.”
- Other expressions for this term could be “make new” or “make like new again.”
- When property is “restored,” it has been “repaired” or “replaced” or “given back” to its owner.
- Depending on the context, “restoration” could be translated as “renewal” or “healing” or “reconciliation.”

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 5:10
- Acts 3:21
- Acts 15:15-18
- Isaiah 49:5-6
- Jeremiah 15:19-21
- Lamentations 5:22
- Leviticus 6:5-7
- Luke 19:8
- Matthew 12:13
- Psalm 80:1-3

Word Data:

- Strong's: H7725, H7999, H8421, G06000, G26750

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:7](#); [22:26](#); [23:4](#))

return, turn back

Definition:

The term “return” means to go back or to give something back.

- To “return to” something means to start doing that activity again. To “return to” a place or person means to go back to that place or person again.
- When the Israelites returned to their worship of idols, they were starting to worship them again.
- When they returned to Yahweh, they repented and were worshipping Yahweh again.
- To return land or things that were taken or received from someone else means to give that property back to the person it belongs to.

(See also: [turn](#))

Bible References:

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5437, H7725, H7729, H8421, H8666, G03440, G03600, G03900, G18770, G18800, G19940, G52900

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:7](#); [4:18](#); [4:19](#); [4:20](#); [4:21](#); [5:22](#); [13:17](#); [14:26](#); [14:27](#); [14:28](#); [15:19](#); [32:27](#); [32:31](#); [33:11](#); [34:31](#); [34:35](#))

Reuben

Facts:

Reuben was Jacob's first son. He was Leah's first son. His descendants became one of the tribes of Israel.

- The tribe descended from him was known as the tribe of Reuben or the Reubenites.
- In Hebrew, the name Reuben means "Look, a son!"
- The tribe of Reuben settled on the eastern side of the Jordan River along with the tribe of Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, [Jacob](#), Leah)

Bible References:

- Genesis 29:32
- Genesis 35:21-22
- Genesis 42:22
- Genesis 42:37

Word Data:

- Strong's: H7205, H7206, G45020

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:2](#); [6:14](#))

reveal, revealed, revelation

Definition:

The term “reveal” means to cause something to be known. A “revelation” is something that has been made known.

- God has revealed himself through everything he has created and through his communication with people by spoken and written messages.
- God also reveals himself through dreams or visions.
- When Paul said that he received the gospel by “revelation from Jesus Christ,” he means that Jesus himself explained the gospel to him.
- In the New Testament book “Revelation” is about God revealed events that will happen in the end times. He revealed them to the apostle John through visions.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate “reveal” could include “make known” or “disclose” or “show clearly.”
- Depending on the context, possible ways to translate “revelation” could be “communication from God” or “things that God has revealed” or “teachings about God.” It is best to keep the meaning of “reveal” in the translation.
- The phrase “where there is no revelation” could be translated as “when God is not revealing himself to people” or “when God is not speaking to people” or “among people whom God has not communicating.”

(See also: good news, good news, dream, vision)

Bible References:

- Daniel 11:1-2
- Ephesians 3:5
- Galatians 1:12
- Lamentations 2:13-14
- Matthew 10:26
- Philippians 3:15
- Revelation 1:1

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0241, H1540, H1541, G06010, G06020, G55370

(Go back to: [Exodus 3 General Notes](#); [Notes](#))

righteous, righteousness, unrighteous, unrighteousness, upright, uprightness

Definition:

The term “righteousness” refers to God’s absolute goodness, justice, faithfulness, and love. Having these qualities makes God “righteous.” Because God is righteous, he must condemn sin.

- These terms are also often used to describe a person who obeys God and is morally good. However, because all people have sinned, no one except God is completely righteous.
- Examples of people the Bible who were called “righteous” include Noah, Job, Abraham, Zachariah, and Elisabeth.
- When people trust in Jesus to save them, God cleanses them from their sins and declares them to be righteous because of Jesus’ righteousness.

The term “unrighteous” means to be sinful and morally corrupt. “Unrighteousness” refers to sin or the condition of being sinful.

- These terms especially refer to living in a way that disobeys God’s teachings and commands.
- Unrighteous people are immoral in their thoughts and actions.
- Sometimes “the unrighteous” refers specifically to people who do not believe in Jesus.

The terms “upright” and “uprightness” refer to acting in a way that follows God’s laws.

- The meaning of these words includes the idea of standing up straight and looking directly ahead.
- A person who is “upright” is someone who obeys God’s rules and does not do things that are against his will.
- Terms such as “integrity” and “righteous” have similar meanings and are sometimes used in parallelism constructions, such as “integrity and uprightness.” (See: [parallelism](#))

Translation Suggestions:

- When it describes God, the term “righteous” could be translated as “perfectly good and just” or “always acting rightly.”
- God’s “righteousness” could also be translated as “perfect faithfulness and goodness.”
- When it describes people who are obedient to God, the term “righteous” could also be translated as “morally good” or “just” or “living a God-pleasing life.”
- The phrase “the righteous” could also be translated as “righteous people” or “God-fearing people.”
- Depending on the context, “righteousness” could also be translated with a word or phrase that means “goodness” or “being perfect before God” or “acting in a right way by obeying God” or “doing perfectly good.”
- The term “unrighteous” could simply be translated as “not righteous.”
- Depending on the context, other ways to translate this could include “wicked” or “immoral” or “people who rebel against God” or “sinful.”
- The phrase “the unrighteous” could be translated as “unrighteous people.”
- The term “unrighteousness” could be translated as “sin” or “evil thoughts and actions” or “wickedness.”
- If possible, it is best to translate this in a way that shows its relationship to “righteous, righteousness.”
- Ways to translate “upright” could include “acting rightly” or “one who acts rightly” or “following God’s laws” or “obedient to God” or “behaving in a way that is right.”
- The term “uprightness” could be translated as “moral purity” or “good moral conduct” or “rightness.”
- The phrase “the upright” could be translated as “people who are upright” or “upright people.”

(See also: [evil](#), [faithful](#), [good](#), [holy](#), integrity, [just](#), [law](#), [law](#), [obey](#), [pure](#), [righteous](#), [sin](#), unlawful)

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 19:16
- Job 1:8
- Psalms 37:30
- Psalms 49:14
- Psalms 107:42
- Ecclesiastes 12:10-11
- Isaiah 48:1-2
- Ezekiel 33:13
- Malachi 2:6
- Matthew 6:1
- Acts 3:13-14
- Romans 1:29-31
- 1 Corinthians 6:9
- Galatians 3:7
- Colossians 3:25
- 2 Thessalonians 2:10
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- 1 Peter 3:18-20
- 1 John 1:9
- 1 John 5:16-17

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **3:2** But Noah found favor with God. He was a **righteous** man, living among wicked people.
- **4:8** God declared that Abram was **righteous** because he believed in God's promise.
- **17:2** David was a humble and **righteous** man who trusted and obeyed God.
- **23:1** Joseph, the man Mary was engaged to, was a **righteous** man.
- **50:10** Then the **righteous** ones will shine like the sun in the kingdom of God their Father.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0205, H1368, H2555, H3072, H3474, H3476, H3477, H3483, H4334, H4339, H4749, H5228, H5229, H5324, H5765, H5766, H5767, H5977, H6662, H6663, H6664, H6665, H6666, H6968, H8535, H8537, H8549, H8552, G00930, G00940, G04580, G13410, G13420, G13430, G13440, G13450, G13460, G21180, G37160, G37170

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:27](#); [23:7](#); [23:8](#))

robe, robed

Definition:

A robe is an outer garment with long sleeves that can be worn by a man or a woman. It is similar to a coat.

- Robes are open in the front and are tied shut with a sash or belt.
- They can be long or short.
- Purple robes were worn by kings as a sign of royalty, wealth, and prestige.

(See also: royal, [tunic](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 28:4-5
- Genesis 49:11-12
- Luke 15:22
- Luke 20:46
- Matthew 27:27-29

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0145, H0155, H0899, H1545, H2436, H2684, H3671, H3801, H3830, H3847, H4060, H4254, H4598, H5497, H5622, H6614, H7640, H7757, H7897, H8071, G17460, G20670, G24400, G47490, G40160, G55110

(Go back to: [Exodus 28:4](#); [28:31](#); [28:34](#); [29:5](#); [39:22](#); [39:23](#); [39:24](#); [39:25](#); [39:26](#))

ruin, ruins, ruined

Definition:

To “ruin” something means to spoil, destroy, or cause to be useless. The term “ruin” or “ruins” refers to the rubble and spoiled remains of something that has been destroyed.

- The prophet Zephaniah spoke about the day of God’s wrath as a “day of ruin” when the world will be judged and punished.
- The book of Proverbs says that ruin and destruction await those who are ungodly.
- Depending on the context, to “ruin” could be translated as to “destroy” or to “spoil” or to “make useless” or to “break.”
- The term “ruin” or “ruins” could be translated as “rubble” or “broken-down buildings” or “destroyed city” or “devastation” or “brokenness” or “destruction,” depending on the context.

(See also: devastated)

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 12:7-8
- 2 Kings 19:25-26
- Acts 15:16
- Isaiah 23:13-14

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0006, H1197, H1530, H1820, H1942, H2034, H2040, H2717, H2719, H2720, H2723, H2930, H3510, H3765, H3782, H3832, H4072, H4288, H4384, H4654, H4876, H4889, H5221, H5327, H5557, H5754, H5856, H7451, H7489, H7582, H7591, H7612, H7701, H7703, H7843, H8047, H8074, H8077, H8414, H8510, G26790, G26920, G36390, G44850

(Go back to: [Exodus 8:24](#))

rule, reign, ruler, prefect, official, leader

Definition:

The term “ruler” is a general reference to a person who has authority over other people, such as a leader of a country, kingdom, or religious group. A ruler is one who “rules,” and his authority is his “rule.”

- In the Old Testament, a king was sometimes referred to generally as a “ruler,” as in the phrase “appointed him ruler over Israel.”
- God was referred to as the ultimate ruler, who rules over all other rulers.
- In the New Testament, the leader of a synagogue was called a “ruler.”
- Another type of ruler in the New Testament was a “governor.”
- Depending on the context, “ruler” could be translated as “leader” or “person who has authority over.”
- The action to “rule” means to “lead” to “have authority over.” It means the same thing as “reign” when it refers to the ruling of a king.

(See also: [authority](#), governor, [king](#), synagogue)

Bible References:

- Acts 3:17-18
- Acts 7:35-37
- Luke 12:11
- Luke 23:35
- Mark 10:42
- Matthew 9:32-34
- Matthew 20:25
- Titus 3:1

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0995, H1166, H1167, H1404, H2708, H2710, H3027, H3548, H3920, H4043, H4410, H4427, H4428, H4438, H4467, H4474, H4475, H4623, H4910, H4941, H5057, H5065, H5387, H5401, H5461, H5715, H6113, H6213, H6485, H6957, H7101, H7218, H7287, H7300, H7336, H7786, H7860, H7980, H7981, H7985, H7989, H7990, H8199, H8269, H8323, H8451, G07460, G07520, G07550, G07570, G07580, G09320, G09360, G10180, G12030, G12990, G17780, G17850, G18490, G22320, G22330, G25250, G25830, G28880, G29610, G35450, G38410, G41650, G41730, G42910

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:14](#); [18:21](#); [18:25](#); [22:28](#); [34:31](#))

Sabbath

Definition:

The term “Sabbath” refers to the seventh day of the week, which God commanded the Israelites to set apart as a day of rest and doing no work.

- After God finished creating the world in six days, he rested on the seventh day. In the same way, God commanded the Israelites to set aside the seventh day as a special day to rest and worship him.
- The command to “keep the Sabbath holy” is one of the ten commandments that God wrote on the stone tablets that he gave Moses for the Israelites.
- Following the Jewish system of counting days, the Sabbath begins on Friday at sundown and lasts until Saturday at sundown.
- Sometimes in the Bible the Sabbath is called “Sabbath day” rather than only the Sabbath.

Translation Suggestions:

- This could also be translated as “resting day” or “day for resting” or “day of not working” or “God’s day of rest.”
- Some translations capitalize this term to show that it is a special day, as in “Sabbath Day” or “Resting Day.”
- Consider how this term is translated in a local or national language.

(See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: [rest](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Chronicles 31:2-3
- Acts 13:26-27
- Exodus 31:14
- Isaiah 56:6-7
- Lamentations 2:6
- Leviticus 19:3
- Luke 13:14
- Mark 2:27
- Matthew 12:2
- Nehemiah 10:32-33

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **13:5** “Always be sure to keep the **Sabbath day** holy. That is, do all your work in six days, for the seventh day is a day for you to rest and to honor me.”
- **26:2** Jesus went to the town of Nazareth where he had lived during his childhood. On the **Sabbath**, he went to the place of worship.
- **41:3** The day after Jesus was buried was a **Sabbath** day, and the Jews were not permitted to go to the tomb on that day.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H4868, H7676, H7677, G43150, G45210

(**Go back to:** [Exodus 16 General Notes](#); [16:23](#); [16:25](#); [16:26](#); [16:29](#); [20:8](#); [20:10](#); [20:11](#); [Notes](#); [31:13](#); [31:14](#); [31:15](#); [31:16](#); [35:2](#); [35:3](#))

sacrifice, sacrifices, offering

Definition:

In the Bible, the terms “sacrifice” and “offering” refer to special gifts given to God as an act of worshiping him. People also offered sacrifices to false gods.

sacrifice

- Sacrifices to God often involved the killing of an animal.
- Only the sacrifice of Jesus, God’s perfect sinless Son, can completely cleanse people from sin; animal sacrifices could never do that.

offering

- The word “offering” generally refers to anything that is offered or given. The term “sacrifice” refers to something that is given or done at great cost to the giver.
- Offerings to God were specific things that he commanded the Israelites to give in order to express devotion and obedience to him.
- The names of the different offerings, such as “burnt offering” and “peace offering,” indicated what kind of offering was being given.

Translation Suggestions

- The term “offering” could also be translated as “a gift to God” or “something given to God” or “something valuable that is presented to God.”
- Depending on the context, the term “sacrifice” could also be translated as “something valuable given in worship” or “a special animal killed and presented to God.”
- The action to “sacrifice” could be translated as to “give up something valuable” or to “kill an animal and give it to God.”
- Another way to translate “present yourself as a living sacrifice” could be “as you live your life, offer yourself to God as completely as an animal is offered on an altar.”

(See also: [altar](#), [burnt offering](#), [drink offering](#), false god, fellowship offering, [freewill offering](#) [peace offering](#), [priest](#), sin offering, [worship](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Timothy 4:6
- Acts 7:42
- Acts 21:25
- Genesis 4:3-5
- James 2:21-24
- Mark 1:43-44
- Mark 14:12
- Matthew 5:23

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **3:14** After Noah got off the boat, he built an altar and **sacrificed** some of each kind of animal which could be used for a **sacrifice**. God was happy with the **sacrifice** and blessed Noah and his family.
- **5:6** "Take Isaac, your only son, and kill him as a **sacrifice** to me." Again Abraham obeyed God and prepared to **sacrifice** his son.
- **5:9** God had provided the ram to be the **sacrifice** instead of Isaac.
- **13:9** Anyone who disobeyed God's law could bring an animal to the Tent of Meeting as a **sacrifice** to God. A priest would kill the animal and burn it on the altar. The blood of the animal that was **sacrificed** covered the person's sin and made that person clean in God's sight.
- **17:6** David wanted to build a temple where all the Israelites could worship God and offer him **sacrifices**.
- **48:6** Jesus is the Great High Priest. Unlike other priests, he offered himself as the only **sacrifice** that could to take away the sin of all the people in the world.
- **48:8** But God provided Jesus, the Lamb of God, as a **sacrifice** to die in our place.
- **49:11** Because Jesus **sacrificed** himself, God can forgive any sin, even terrible sins.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0801, H0817, H0819, H1685, H1890, H1974, H2076, H2077, H2281, H2282, H2398, H2401, H2402, H2403, H2409, H3632, H4394, H4503, H4504, H5066, H5068, H5071, H5257, H5258, H5261, H5262, H5927, H5928, H5930, H6453, H6944, H6999, H7133, H7311, H8002, H8426, H8548, H8573, H8641, G02660, G03340, G10490, G14350, G14940, G23780, G23800, G36460, G43760, G54850

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:18](#); [5:3](#); [5:8](#); [5:17](#); [8:8](#); [8:25](#); [8:26](#); [8:27](#); [8:28](#); [8:29](#); [10:25](#); [12:27](#); [13:15](#); [18:12](#); [20:24](#); [22:20](#); [23:18](#); [24:5](#); [29:18](#); [29:24](#); [29:25](#); [29:26](#); [29:27](#); [29:28](#); [29:36](#); [29:38](#); [29:39](#); [29:41](#); [30:9](#); [30:13](#); [30:14](#); [30:20](#); [32:8](#); [34:15](#); [34:25](#); [35:5](#); [35:22](#))

sanctuary

Definition:

The term “sanctuary” literally means “holy place” and refers to a place that God has made sacred and holy. It also can refer to a place that provides protection and safety.

- In the Old Testament, the term “sanctuary” was often used to refer to the tabernacle or temple building where the “holy place” and “most holy place” were located.
- God referred to the sanctuary as the place where he lived among his people, the Israelites.
- He also called himself a “sanctuary” or safe place for his people where they can find protection.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term has a basic meaning of “holy place” or “place that is set apart.”
- Depending on the context, the term “sanctuary” could be translated as “holy place” or “sacred building” or “God’s holy dwelling place” or “holy place of protection” or “sacred place of safety.”
- The phrase “shekel of the sanctuary” could be translated as “kind of shekel given for the tabernacle” or “shekel used in paying the tax to take care of the temple.”
- Note: Be careful that the translation of this term does not refer to a worship room in a modern-day church.

(See also: [holy](#), Holy Spirit, [holy](#), [set apart](#), [tabernacle](#), tax, temple)

Bible References:

- Amos 7:13
- Exodus 25:3-7
- Ezekiel 25:3
- Hebrews 8:1-2
- Luke 11:49-51
- Numbers 18:1
- Psalms 78:69

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4720, H6944, G00400

(Go back to: [Exodus 25:8](#); [30:13](#); [30:24](#); [38:24](#); [38:25](#); [38:26](#); [38:27](#))

sandal

Definition:

A sandal is a simple shoe with a flat sole that is held onto the foot by straps that go around the foot or ankle. Sandals are worn by both men and women.

- In ancient Israel, a sandal was sometimes used to confirm a legal transaction, such as the selling of property. One person would take off a sandal and give it to the other person to show that the transaction was legal and binding.
- John said that he was not worthy to even untie Jesus' sandals, which was a normal task for the servant or slave with the lowest status in a Jewish household.

Bible References:

- Acts 7:33
- Deuteronomy 25:10
- John 1:27
- Joshua 5:15
- Mark 6:7-9

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5274, H5275, H8288, G45470, G52660

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:5](#); [12:11](#))

Saul (OT)

Facts:

Saul was an Israelite man whom God chose to become the first king of Israel.

- Saul was tall and handsome, and a powerful soldier. He was the kind of man that the Israelites wanted to be their king.
- Although he served God at first, Saul later became proud and disobeyed God. As a result, God appointed David to take Saul's place as king and allowed Saul to be killed in battle.
- In the New Testament, there was a Jew named Saul who was also known as Paul and who became an apostle of Jesus Christ.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [king](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 10:1-3
- 1 Samuel 9:1
- 2 Samuel 1:1-2
- Acts 13:22
- Psalm 18:1

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **17:1 Saul** was the first king of Israel. He was tall and handsome, just like the people wanted. **Saul** was a good king for the first few years that he ruled over Israel. But then he became a wicked man who did not obey God, so God chose a different man who would one day be king in his place.
- **17:4 Saul** became jealous of the people's love for David. **Saul** tried many times to kill him, so David hid from **Saul**.
- **17:5** Eventually, **Saul** died in battle, and David became king of Israel.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H7586, G45490

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:15](#))

save, saved, safe, salvation

Definition:

The term “save” refers to keeping someone from experiencing something bad or harmful. To “be safe” means to be protected from harm or danger.

- In a physical sense, people can be saved or rescued from harm, danger, or death.
- In a spiritual sense, if a person has been “saved,” then God, through Jesus’ death on the cross, has forgiven him and rescued him from being punished in hell for his sin.
- People can save or rescue people from danger, but only God can save people from being punished eternally for their sins.

The term “salvation” refers to being saved or rescued from evil and danger.

- In the Bible, “salvation” usually refers to the spiritual and eternal deliverance granted by God to those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus.
- The Bible also talks about God saving or delivering his people from their physical enemies.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate “save” could include “deliver” or “keep from harm” or “take out of harm’s way” or “keep from dying.”
- In the expression “whoever would save his life,” the term “save” could also be translated as “preserve” or “protect.”
- The term “safe” could be translated as “protected from danger” or “in a place where nothing can harm.”
- The term “salvation” could also be translated using words related to “save” or “rescue,” as in “God’s saving people (from being punished for their sins)” or “God’s rescuing his people (from their enemies).”
- “God is my salvation” could be translated as “God is the one who saves me.”
- “You will draw water from the wells of salvation” could be translated as “You will be refreshed as with water because God is rescuing you.”

(See also: cross, [deliver](#), punish, [sin](#), Savior)

Bible References:

- Genesis 49:18
- Genesis 47:25-26
- Psalms 80:3
- Jeremiah 16:19-21
- Micah 6:3-5
- Luke 2:30
- Luke 8:36-37
- Acts 4:12
- Acts 28:28
- Acts 2:21
- Romans 1:16
- Romans 10:10
- Ephesians 6:17
- Philippians 1:28
- 1 Timothy 1:15-17
- Revelation 19:1-2

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **9:8** Moses tried to **save** his fellow Israelite.
- **11:2** God provided a way to **save** the firstborn son of anyone who believed in him.
- **12:5** Moses told the Israelites, "Stop being afraid! God will fight for you today and **save** you."
- **12:13** The Israelites sang many songs to celebrate their new freedom and to praise God because he **saved** them from the Egyptian army.
- **16:17** This pattern repeated many times: the Israelites would sin, God would punish them, they would repent, and God would send a deliverer to **save** them.
- **44:8** "You crucified Jesus, but God raised him to life again! You rejected him, but there is no other way to be **saved** except through the power of Jesus!"
- **47:11** The jailer trembled as he came to Paul and Silas and asked, "What must I do to be **saved**?" Paul answered, "Believe in Jesus, the Master, and you and your family will be **saved**."
- **49:12** Good works cannot **save** you.
- **49:13** God will **save** everyone who believes in Jesus and receives him as their Master. But he will not **save** anyone who does not believe in him.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0983, H2421, H2502, H3444, H3467, H3468, H4190, H4422, H4931, H5338, H6308, H6403, H7682, H7951, H7965, H8104, H8199, H8668, G08030, G08040, G08060, G12950, G15080, G49820, G49910, G49920, G51980

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:17](#); [14:13](#); [14:30](#); [15:2](#))

sea of reeds, Sea of Reeds, Red Sea

Facts:

The "Sea of Reeds" was the name of a body of water located between Egypt and Arabia. It is now called the "Red Sea."

- The Red Sea is long and narrow. It is larger than a lake or river, but much smaller than an ocean.
- The Israelites had to cross the Red Sea when they were fleeing from Egypt. God performed a miracle and caused the waters of the sea to divide so that the people could walk across on dry land.
- The land of Canaan was north of this sea.
- This could also be translated as "Reed Sea."

(See also: Arabia. [Canaan](#), [Egypt](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 7:35-37
- Exodus 13:17-18
- Joshua 4:22-24
- Numbers 14:23-25

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **12:4** When the Israelites saw the Egyptian army coming, they realized they were trapped between Pharaoh's army and the **Red Sea**.
- **12:5** Then God told Moses, "Tell the people to move toward the **Red Sea**."
- **13:1** After God led the Israelites through the **Red Sea**, he led them through the wilderness to a mountain called Sinai.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3220, H5488, G20630, G22810

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:19](#); [13:18](#); [15:4](#); [15:22](#); [23:31](#))

seed, semen

Definition:

A “seed” is the part of a plant that gets planted in the ground to reproduce more of the same kind of plant. However, in the Bible the term “seed” is used figuratively to mean several different things.

- The term “seed” is used figuratively and euphemistically to refer to the tiny cells inside a man that combine with cells of a woman to cause a baby to grow inside her. A collection of these cells is called “semen.”
- Related to this, “seed” is also used to refer to a person’s offspring or descendants.
- This word often has a plural meaning, referring to more than one seed grain or more than one descendant.
- In the parable of the farmer planting seeds, Jesus compared his seeds to the Word of God, which is planted in people’s hearts in order to produce good spiritual fruit.
- The apostle Paul also uses the term “seed” to refer to the Word of God.

Translation Suggestions:

- For a literal seed, it is best to use the literal term for “seed” that is used in the target language for what a farmer plants in his field.
- The literal term should also be used in contexts where it refers figuratively to God’s Word.
- For the figurative use that refers to people who are of the same family line, it may be more clear to use the word “descendant” or “descendants” instead of “seed.” Some languages may have a word that means “children and grandchildren.”
- For a man or woman’s “seed,” consider how the target expresses this in a way that will not offend or embarrass people. (See: [euphemism](#))

(See also: [children](#), [descendant](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 18:32
- Genesis 1:11
- Jeremiah 2:21
- Matthew 13:8

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2232, H2233, H3610, H6507, G46150, G46870, G46900, G47010, G47030

(Go back to: [Exodus 28:43](#); [30:21](#); [32:13](#); [33:1](#))

seek, search, look for

Definition:

The term “seek” means to look for something or someone. In the past tense, the verb is “sought.” This term is sometimes used figuratively, meaning to “attempt” or “make an effort” to do something or to ask for something.

- To “seek” or “look for” an opportunity to do something can mean to “try to find a time” to do it.
- To “seek Yahweh” means to “spend time and energy getting to know Yahweh and learning to obey him.”
- To “seek protection” means to “try to find a person or place that will protect you from danger.”
- To “seek justice” means to “make an effort to see that people are treated justly or fairly.”
- To “seek the truth” means to “make an effort to find out what the truth is.”
- To “seek favor” means to “urgently ask for favor” or to “do things to cause someone to help you.”

(See also: [just](#), [true](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 10:14
- Acts 17:26-27
- Hebrews 11:6
- Luke 11:9
- Psalms 27:8

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0579, H1156, H1239, H1243, H1245, H1556, H1875, H2470, H2603, H2658, H2664, H3289, H7125, H7592, H7836, H8446, G03270, G15670, G19340, G20520, G22120

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:15](#); [4:19](#); [4:24](#); [10:11](#); [33:7](#))

seize, seizure, capture

Definition:

The term “seize” means to take or capture someone or something by force. It can also mean to overpower and control someone.

- When a city was taken by means of military force, the soldiers would seize the valuable property of the people they had conquered.
- When used figuratively, a person can be described as being “seized with fear.” This means that the person was suddenly “overcome by fear.” If a person was “seized with fear” it could also be stated that the person “suddenly became very afraid.”
- In the context of labor pains that “seize” a woman, the meaning is that the pains are sudden and overpowering. This could be translated by saying that the pains “overcome” or “suddenly come upon” the woman.
- This term could also be translated as “take control of” or “suddenly take” or “grab.”
- The expression “seized and slept with her” could be translated as “forced himself on her” or “violated her” or “raped her.” Make sure the translation of this concept is acceptable.

(See: [euphemism](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 16:19-21
- Exodus 15:14
- John 10:37-39
- Luke 8:29
- Matthew 26:48

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0270, H1497, H2388, H3027, H3920, H3947, H4672, H5377, H5860, H6031, H7760, H8610, G07240, G19490, G26380, G29020, G29830, G48150, G48840

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:14](#); [15:15](#))

send, sent, send out

Definition:

To “send” is to cause someone or something to go somewhere. To “send out” someone is to tell that person to go on an errand or a mission.

- Often a person who is “sent out” has been appointed to do a specific task.
- Phrases like “send rain” or “send disaster” mean to “cause...to come.” This type of expression is usually used in reference to God causing these things to happen.
- The term “send” is also used in expressions such as to “send word” or to “send a message,” which means to give someone a message to tell someone else.
- To “send” someone “with” something can mean to “give” that thing “to” someone else, usually moving it some distance in order for the person to receive it.
- Jesus frequently used the phrase “the one who sent me” to refer to God the Father, who “sent” him to earth to redeem and save people. This could also be translated as “the one who commissioned me.”

(See also: [appoint](#), [redeem](#), [castout](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 7:33-34
- Acts 8:14-17
- John 20:21-23
- Matthew 9:37-38
- Matthew 10:5
- Matthew 10:40
- Matthew 21:1-3

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0935, H1540, H1980, H2199, H2904, H3318, H3474, H3947, H4916, H4917, H5042, H5130, H5375, H5414, H5674, H6963, H7368, H7725, H7964, H7971, H7972, H7993, H8421, H8446, G07820, G03750, G06300, G06490, G06520, G06570, G10260, G10320, G15440, G15990, G18210, G33330, G33430, G39360, G39920, G43110, G43410, G43690, G48420, G48820

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:5](#); [3:10](#); [3:12](#); [3:13](#); [3:14](#); [3:15](#); [3:20](#); [4:13](#); [4:28](#); [5:22](#); [7:14](#); [7:16](#); [8:21](#); [9:7](#); [9:14](#); [9:15](#); [9:19](#); [9:23](#); [9:27](#); [9:28](#); [15:7](#); [22:11](#); [23:20](#); [23:27](#); [23:28](#); [24:5](#); [33:2](#); [33:12](#))

serpent, snake, viper

Facts:

These terms all refer to a kind of reptile that has a long, thin body and large, fanged jaws, and that moves by slithering back and forth across the ground. The term “serpent” usually refers to a large snake and “viper” refers to a type of snake that has venom which it uses to poison its prey.

- This animal is also used figuratively to refer to a person who is evil, especially someone who is deceitful.
- Jesus called the religious leaders “offspring of vipers” because they pretended to be righteous but deceived people and treated them unfairly.
- In the garden of Eden, Satan took the form of a serpent when he talked to Eve and tempted her to disobey God.
- After the serpent tempted Eve to sin, and both Eve and her husband Adam did sin, God cursed the snake, saying that from then on, all snakes would slither along the ground, implying that before then they had had legs.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [curse](#), [deceive](#), disobey, Eden, [evil](#), prey, Satan, [sin](#), tempt)

Bible References:

- Genesis 3:3
- Genesis 3:4-6
- Genesis 3:12-13
- Mark 16:17-18
- Matthew 3:7
- Matthew 23:33

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0660, H2119, H5175, H6620, H6848, H8314, H8577, G21910, G20620, G37890

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:3](#); [7:9](#); [7:10](#); [7:12](#); [7:15](#))

servant, serve, slave, young man, young women

Definition:

A “servant” or “slave” refers to a person who works for (or obeys) another person, either by choice or by force. A servant was under his master's control. In the Bible, “servant” and “slave” are mostly interchangeable terms. The term “serve” generally means to do work for someone, and the concept can be applied in a wide variety of contexts.

- A slave was a kind of servant who was the property of the person he worked for. The person who bought a slave was called his “owner” or “master.” Some masters treated their slaves cruelly. Other masters treated their slaves well, like a valued member of the household. The term “slavery” means the state of being a slave.
- A person could be a slave temporarily, for instance while working to repay a debt to his owner.
- The words “young man” or “young woman” often mean “servant” or “slave.” This meaning will be discerned from context. One indicator of this situation is if the possessive is used, eg. “her young women” could be translated as “her servants” or “her slaves.”
- The term “enslave” means “to cause to be a slave” (usually by force).
- The New Testament speaks of human beings as “slaves of sin” until Jesus frees them from its control and power. When a person receives new life in Christ, he stops being a slave to sin and becomes a slave to righteousness.

Translation Suggestions

- The term “serve” can also be translated as “minister to” or “work for” or “take care of” or “obey,” depending on the context.
- The term “enslave” could be translated as “cause to not be free” or “force to serve others” or “put under the control of others.”
- The phrase “enslaved to” or “in bondage to” could be translated as “forced to be a slave of” or “forced to serve” or “under the control of.”
- To “serve God” can be translated as to “worship and obey God” or to “do the work that God has commanded.”
- In the Old Testament, God’s prophets and other people who worshiped God were often called his “servants.”
- In the New Testament, people who obeyed God through faith in Christ were often called his “servants.”
- To “serve tables” means to bring food to people who are sitting at tables, or more generally, to “distribute food.”
- In the context of a person serving guests, this term means “care for” or “serve food to” or “provide food for.” When Jesus told the disciples to “serve” the fish to the people, this could be translated as, “distribute” or “hand out” or “give.”
- People who teach others about God are said to serve both God and the ones they are teaching.
- The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians about how they used to “serve” the old covenant. This refers to obeying the laws of Moses. Now they “serve” the new covenant. That is, because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, believers in Jesus are enabled by the Holy Spirit to please God and live holy lives.
- Paul talks about their actions in terms of their “service” to either the old or new covenant. This could be translated as “serving” or “obeying” or “devotion to.”
- Often, when a person referred to himself as “your servant” he was showing respect to the person addressed. That person may have had higher social status, or the speaker may be showing humility. It did not mean that the person speaking was an actual servant.

(See also: [bondage](#), [works](#), [obey](#), [house](#), [lord](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 15:13
- Genesis 21:10-11
- Genesis 25:23
- Deuteronomy 24:7
- Jeremiah 30:8-9
- Matthew 4:10-11
- Matthew 6:24
- Matthew 10:24-25
- Matthew 13:27-28
- Mark 8:7-10
- Mark 9:33-35
- Luke 4:8
- Luke 12:37-38
- Luke 12:47-48
- Luke 22:26-27
- Acts 4:29-31
- Acts 6:2-4
- Acts 10:7-8
- Galatians 4:3
- Galatians 4:24-25
- Colossians 1:7-8
- Colossians 3:22-25
- 2 Timothy 2:3-5

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **6:1** When Abraham was very old and his son, Isaac, had grown to be a man, Abraham sent one of his **servants** back to the land where his relatives lived to find a wife for his son, Isaac.
- **8:4** The **slave** traders sold Joseph as a **slave** to a wealthy government official.
- **9:13** "I (God) will send you (Moses) to Pharaoh so that you can bring the Israelites out of their **slavery** in Egypt."
- **19:10** Then Elijah prayed, "O Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, show us today that you are the God of Israel and that I am your **servant**."
- **29:3** "Since the **servant** could not pay the debt, the king said, 'Sell this man and his family as **slaves** to make payment on his debt.'"
- **35:6** "All my father's **servants** have plenty to eat, and yet here I am starving."
- **47:4** The **slave** girl kept yelling as they walked, "These men are servants of the Most High God."
- **50:4** Jesus also said, "A **servant** is not greater than his master."

Word Data:

- (Servant) Strong's: H0519, H5288, H5647, H5649, H5650, H5657, H7916, H8198, H8334, G12490, G14010, G14020, G23240, G34070, G34110, G36100, G38160, G49830, G52570
- (Serve) H3547, H4929, H4931, H5647, H5656, H5673, H5975, H6213, H6399, H6402, H6440, H6633, H6635, H7272, H8104, H8120, H8199, H8278, H8334, G12470, G12480, G13980, G14020, G14380, G19830, G20640, G22120, G23230, G29990, G30000, G30090, G43370, G43420, G47540, G50870, G52560
- (Enslave) H3533, G26150

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:13](#); [1:14](#); [2:5](#); [2:6](#); [2:23](#); [3:12](#); [4:10](#); [4:23](#); [5:9](#); [5:11](#); [5:15](#); [5:16](#); [5:21](#); [6:5](#); [6:6](#); [6:9](#); [7:10](#); [7:16](#); [7:20](#); [8:1](#); [8:3](#); [8:4](#); [8:9](#); [8:11](#); [8:20](#); [8:21](#); [8:24](#); [8:29](#); [8:31](#); [9:1](#); [9:13](#); [9:14](#); [9:20](#); [9:21](#); [9:30](#); [9:34](#); [10:1](#); [10:3](#); [10:6](#); [10:7](#); [10:8](#);

10:11; 10:24; 10:26; 11:3; 11:5; 11:8; 12:25; 12:26; 12:30; 12:31; 12:44; 12:45; 13:3; 13:5; 13:14; 14:5; 14:12; 14:31;
20:2; 20:5; 20:10; 20:17; 21:2; 21:5; 21:7; 21:20; 21:26; 21:27; 21:32; 23:12; 23:24; 23:25; 23:33; 24:13; 28:43; 29:30;
30:20; 32:13; 33:11; 35:21; 38:8; 39:1; 39:26)

set apart

Definition:

The term “set apart” means separated from something to fulfill a certain purpose. Also, to “set apart” some person or thing means to make it “set apart.”

- The Israelites were set apart for service to God.
- The Holy Spirit commanded the Christians at Antioch to set apart Paul and Barnabas for the work God wanted them to do.
- A believer who is “set apart” for service to God is “dedicated to” fulfilling God’s will.
- One meaning of the term “holy” is to be set apart as belonging to God and being separated from the sinful ways of the world.
- To “sanctify” someone means to set apart that person for God’s service.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate to “set apart” could include to “specially select” or to “separate from among you” or to “take aside to do a special task.”
- To “be set apart” could be translated as “be separated (from)” or “be specially appointed (for).”

(See also: [holy](#), [sanctify](#), [appoint](#))

Bible References:

- Ephesians 3:17-19
- Exodus 31:12-15
- Judges 17:12
- Numbers 3:11-13
- Philippians 1:1-2
- Romans 1:1

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2764, H4390, H5674, H6918, H6942, H6944, G00370, G00380, G00400, G08730

(Go back to: [Exodus 13:2](#); [19:10](#); [19:23](#); [20:8](#); [20:11](#); [28:3](#); [28:41](#); [29:1](#); [29:21](#); [29:27](#); [29:33](#); [29:34](#); [29:36](#); [29:37](#); [29:43](#); [29:44](#); [30:29](#); [30:30](#); [31:13](#); [40:9](#); [40:10](#); [40:11](#); [40:13](#))

shepherd, herder, pastor

Definition:

A “shepherd” is a person who takes care of sheep. In the Old Testament, this word can also refer to a “herder” who takes care of other kinds of domestic livestock such as goats or cattle.

- As a verb, the term “shepherd” means to lead sheep (or other livestock) to places with good food and water, protect them from wild animals, keep them from getting lost and other duties necessary to keep livestock alive and healthy.
- In the Bible, this term is often used figuratively to refer to taking care of the needs of people (not only animals), both physical and spiritual.
- In the Old Testament, God was called the “shepherd” of his people because he took care of them. In the New Testament, Jesus called himself the “good shepherd,” and in other places Jesus is called the “great shepherd” of the Church.
- The term “shepherd” is also used in the New Testament to refer to a person who is a spiritual leader over other believers. The word translated as “pastor” is the same word that is translated as “shepherd.” Elders and overseers are also called shepherds.

Translation Suggestions

- The noun “shepherd” can be translated as “person who takes care of sheep” or “sheep tender” or “sheep caregiver.”
- When referring to someone who cares for livestock other than sheep, the term can be translated as “herder,” “tender of livestock” or “person who takes care of livestock.”
- When used as a verb, the term “shepherd” could be translated as “take care of sheep” or “watch over sheep.”
- In some contexts, the term “shepherd” could be translated as “leader” or “guide” or “caregiver.”
- When used figuratively, the noun “shepherd” could be translated in different ways, including “spiritual shepherd” or “spiritual leader” or “one who is like a shepherd” or “one who cares for his people like a shepherd cares for his sheep” or “one who leads his people like a shepherd guides his sheep” or “one who takes care of God’s sheep.”
- When used figuratively, the verb “shepherd” could be translated as to “take care of” or to “spiritually nourish” or to “guide and teach” or to “lead and take care of (like a shepherd cares for sheep).”

(See also: [sheep](#), [livestock](#), [pastor](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 13:7
- Genesis 49:24
- Luke 2:9
- Mark 6:34
- Mark 14:26-27
- Matthew 2:6
- Matthew 9:36
- Matthew 25:32
- Matthew 26:31

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **9:11** Moses became a **shepherd** in the wilderness far away from Egypt.

- **17:2** David was a **shepherd** from the town of Bethlehem. At different times while he was watching his father's sheep, David had killed both a lion and a bear that had attacked the sheep.
- **23:6** That night, there were some **shepherds** in a nearby field guarding their flocks.
- **23:8** The **shepherds** soon arrived at the place where Jesus was and they found him lying in a feeding trough, just as the angel had told them.
- **30:3** To Jesus, these people were like sheep without a **shepherd**.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H6629, H7462, H7469, H7473, G07500, G41650, G41660

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:17](#); [2:19](#); [3:1](#))

shrewd, cunning

Definition:

The term “shrewd” describes a person who is intelligent and clever, especially in practical matters.

- Often the term “shrewd” has a meaning that is partly negative since it usually also involves being selfish.
- A shrewd person is usually focused on helping himself, not others.
- Other ways to translate this term could include “cunning” or “crafty” or “smart” or “clever,” depending on the context.

Bible References:

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2450, H6175, G54290

(Go back to: [Exodus 21:14](#))

sign, proof, reminder

Definition:

The term “sign” usually refers an object, event, or action that communicates a special meaning.

- In the Bible, signs are sometimes given in connection to a promise or covenant that God has made:
 - The book of Genesis describes the rainbow God created in the sky as a sign (or reminder) to himself that he has promised he will never again destroy all life with a worldwide flood.
 - In the book of Genesis, God commanded the Israelites to circumcise their sons as a sign (or indicator) of the fact that he had made his covenant with them.
- Signs can reveal or point to something:
 - The book of Luke describes that an angel gave shepherds a sign that would help them know which baby in Bethlehem was the newborn Messiah.
 - Judas kissed Jesus as a sign to the religious leaders that Jesus was the one they should arrest.
- Signs can prove that something is true:
 - The book of Exodus describes the plagues that destroyed Egypt as signs that showed who Yahweh was and proved that he was greater than Pharaoh and the Egyptian gods.
 - The book of Acts describes the miracles performed by the prophets and apostles as signs that proved they were speaking God’s message.
 - The book of John describes the miracles that Jesus performed as signs that proved he was truly the Messiah.

Translation Suggestions:

- The frequent expression “signs and wonders” could be translated as “proofs and miracles” or “miraculous works that prove God’s power” or “amazing miracles that show how great God is.”
- Depending on its context, “sign” could also be translated as “signal” or “symbol” or “mark” or “evidence” or “proof” or “gesture.”
- To “make signs with the hands” could also be translated as “motion with the hands” or “gesture with the hands” or “make gestures.”
- In some languages, there may be one word for a “sign” that proves something and a different word for a “sign” that is a miracle.

(See also: [miracle](#), [apostle](#), [Christ](#), [covenant](#), [circumcise](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 2:18-19
- Exodus 4:8-9
- Exodus 31:12-15
- Genesis 1:14
- Genesis 9:12
- John 2:18
- Luke 2:12
- Mark 8:12
- Psalms 89:5-6

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0226, H0852, H2368, H2858, H4150, H4159, H4864, H5251, H5824, H6161, H6725, H6734, H7560, G03640, G08800, G12130, G12290, G17180, G17300, G17320, G17700, G39020, G41020, G45910, G45920, G49530, G49730, G52800

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:12](#); [4:8](#); [4:9](#); [4:17](#); [4:28](#); [4:30](#); [7:3](#); [8:23](#); [10:1](#); [10:2](#); [12:13](#); [13:9](#); [13:16](#); [31:13](#); [31:17](#))

silver

Definition:

Silver is a shiny, gray precious metal used to make coins, jewelry, containers, and ornaments.

- The various containers that are made include silver cups and bowls, and other things used for cooking, eating, or serving.
- Silver and gold were used in the building of the tabernacle and the temple. The temple in Jerusalem had containers made of silver.
- In Bible times, a shekel was a unit of weight, and a purchase was often priced at a certain number of shekels of silver. By New Testament times there were silver coins of various weights that were measured in shekels.
- Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave for twenty shekels of silver.
- Judas was paid thirty silver coins for betraying Jesus.

(See also: [tabernacle](#), temple)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 18:9-11
- 1 Samuel 2:36
- 2 Kings 25:13-15
- Acts 3:6
- Matthew 26:15

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3701, H3702, H7192, G06930, G06940, G06950, G06960, G14060

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:22; 11:2; 12:35; 12:44; 20:23; 21:11; 21:21; 21:32; 21:34; 21:35; 22:7; 22:17; 22:25; 25:3; 26:19; 26:21; 26:25; 26:32; 27:10; 27:11; 27:17; 30:16; 31:4; 35:5; 35:24; 35:32; 36:24; 36:26; 36:30; 36:36; 38:10; 38:11; 38:12; 38:17; 38:19; 38:25; 38:27](#))

Simeon

Facts:

Simeon was Jacob's second son. He was Leah's second son. His descendants became one of the tribes of Israel.

- The tribe descended from him was known as the "tribe of Simeon."
- The name Simeon is similar to the Hebrew word meaning "to hear."
- The tribe of Simeon occupied part of the southernmost territory in the promised land of Canaan. Its land was entirely surrounded by the land that belonged to Judah. When used as the name of a region of land, the term "Simeon" refers to the land given to the tribe of Simeon.
- When Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate him to God, an elderly man named Simeon praised God for allowing him to see the Messiah.
- Another man named Simeon is mentioned in Luke's genealogy of Jesus.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, [Jacob](#), Leah)

Bible References:

- Genesis 29:33
- Genesis 34:25
- Genesis 42:35-36
- Genesis 43:21-23
- Luke 2:25

Word Data:

- Strong's: H8095, H8099, G48260

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:2](#); [6:15](#))

sin, sinful, sinner, sinning

Definition:

The term “sin” refers to actions, thoughts, and words that are against God’s will and laws. Sin can also refer to not doing something that God wants us to do.

- Sin includes anything we do that does not obey or please God, even things that other people don’t know about.
- Thoughts and actions that disobey God’s will are called “sinful.”
- Because Adam sinned, all human beings are born with a “sinful nature,” a nature that that controls them and causes them to sin.
- A “sinner” is someone who sins, so every human being is a sinner.
- Sometimes the word “sinners” was used by religious people like the Pharisees to refer to people who didn’t keep the law as well as the Pharisees thought they should.
- The term “sinner” was also used for people who were considered to be worse sinners than other people. For example, this label was given to tax collectors and prostitutes.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “sin” could be translated with a word or phrase that means “disobedience to God” or “going against God’s will” or “evil behavior and thoughts” or “wrongdoing.”
- To “sin” could also be translated as to “disobey God” or to “do wrong.”
- Depending on the context “sinful” could be translated as “full of wrongdoing” or “wicked” or “immoral” or “evil” or “rebellious against God.”
- Depending on the context the term “sinner” could be translated with a word or phrase that means “person who sins” or “person who does wrong things” or “person who disobeys God” or “person who disobeys the law.”
- The term “sinners” could be translated by a word or phrase that means “very sinful people” or “people considered to be very sinful” or “immoral people.”
- Ways to translate “tax collectors and sinners” could include “people who collect money for the government, and other very sinful people” or “very sinful people, including (even) tax collectors.”
- Make sure the translation of this term can include sinful behavior and thoughts, even those that other people don’t see or know about.
- The term “sin” should be general, and different from the terms for “wickedness” and “evil.”

(See also: disobey, [evil](#), [flesh](#), tax collector)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 9:1-3
- 1 John 1:10
- 1 John 2:2
- 2 Samuel 7:12-14
- Acts 3:19
- Daniel 9:24
- Genesis 4:7
- Hebrews 12:2
- Isaiah 53:11
- Jeremiah 18:23
- Leviticus 4:14
- Luke 15:18
- Matthew 12:31

- Romans 6:23
- Romans 8:4

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **3:15** God said, "I promise I will never again curse the ground because of the evil things people do, or destroy the world by causing a flood, even though people are **sinful** from the time they are children."
- **13:12** God was very angry with them because of their **sin** and planned to destroy them.
- **20:1** The kingdoms of Israel and Judah both **sinned** against God. They broke the covenant that God made with them at Sinai.
- **21:13** The prophets also said that the Messiah would be perfect, having no **sin**. He would die to receive the punishment for other people's **sin**.
- **35:1** One day, Jesus was teaching many tax collectors and other **sinner**s who had gathered to hear him.
- **38:5** Then Jesus took a cup and said, "Drink this. It is my blood of the New Covenant that is poured out for the forgiveness of **sins**."
- **43:11** Peter answered them, "Every one of you should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that God will forgive your **sins**."
- **48:8** We all deserve to die for our **sins**!
- **49:17** Even though you are a Christian, you will still be tempted to **sin**. But God is faithful and says that if you confess your **sins**, he will forgive you. He will give you strength to fight against **sin**.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0817, H0819, H2398, H2399, H2400, H2401, H2402, H2403, H2408, H2409, H5771, H6588, H7683, H7686, G02640, G02650, G02660, G02680, G03610, G37810, G39000, G42580

(Go back to: [Exodus 5:16](#); [9:27](#); [9:34](#); [10:16](#); [10:17](#); [Notes](#); [Formatting](#); [20:20](#); [23:33](#); [32:21](#); [32:30](#); [32:31](#); [32:32](#); [32:33](#); [32:34](#); [Notes](#); [34:7](#); [34:9](#))

Sinai, Horeb

Facts:

Mount Sinai or Mount Horeb is a mountain that was probably located in the southern part of what is now called the Sinai Peninsula, but the exact location of this mountain is not known.

- It is possible that “Horeb” was the actual name of the mountain and that “Mount Sinai” simply means “mountain of Sinai,” referring to the fact that Mount Horeb was located in the desert of Sinai.
- It is also called the “mountain of God.”
- It was the place where Moses saw the burning bush when he was tending sheep.
- It was the place where God revealed his covenant to the Israelites by giving them the stone tablets with his commandments written on them.
- It was also the place where God later told Moses to strike a rock to provide water for the Israelites as they were wandering in the desert.

(See also: [desert](#), Ten Commandments)

Bible References:

- Acts 7:29-30
- Exodus 16:1-3
- Galatians 4:24
- Leviticus 27:34
- Numbers 1:17-19
- 1 Kings 8:9-11
- 2 Chronicles 5:9-10
- Deuteronomy 1:2
- Exodus 3:1-3
- Psalms 106:19

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **13:1** After God led the Israelites through the Red Sea, he led them through the wilderness to a mountain called **Sinai**.
- **13:3** Three days later, after the people had prepared themselves spiritually, God came down on top of **Mount Sinai** with thunder, lightning, smoke, and a loud trumpet blast.
- **13:11** For many days, Moses was on top of **Mount Sinai** talking with God.
- **15:13** Then Joshua reminded the people of their obligation to obey the covenant that God had made with the Israelites at **Sinai**.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2722, H5514, G37350, G46140

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:1](#); [19:1](#); [19:2](#); [19:11](#); [19:18](#); [19:20](#); [19:23](#); [24:13](#); [34:32](#))

sister

Definition:

A sister is a female person who shares at least one biological parent with another person. She is said to be that other person's sister or the sister of that other person.

- In the New Testament, "sister" is also used figuratively to refer to a woman who is a fellow believer in Jesus Christ.
- Sometimes the phrase "brothers and sisters" is used to refer to all believers in Christ, both men and women.
- In the Old Testament book Song of Songs, "sister" refers to a female lover or spouse.

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate this term with the literal word that is used in the target language to refer to a natural or biological sister, unless this would give wrong meaning.
- Other ways to translate this could include "sister in Christ" or "spiritual sister" or "woman who believes in Jesus" or "fellow woman believer."
- If possible, it is best to use a family term.
- If the language has a feminine form for "believer," this may be a possible way to translate this term.
- When referring to a lover or wife, this could be translated using a feminine form of "loved one" or "dear one."

(See also: [brother](#) in Christ, [spirit](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 2:16-17
- Deuteronomy 27:22
- Philemon 1:2
- Romans 16:1

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0269, H1323, G00270, G00790

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:4](#); [2:7](#))

slaughter, slaughtered

Definition:

The term “slaughter” refers to killing a large number of animals or people, or to killing in a violent way. It can also refer to killing an animal for the purpose of eating it. The act of slaughtering is also called “slaughter.”

- When Abraham received three visitors at his tent in the desert, he ordered his servants to slaughter and cook a calf for his guests.
- The prophet Ezekiel prophesied that God would send his angel to slaughter all those who would not follow His word.
- 1 Samuel records a great slaughter in which 30,000 Israelites were killed by their enemies because of disobedience to God.
- “Weapons of slaughter” could be translated as “weapons for killing.”
- The expression “the slaughter was very great” could be translated as “a large number were killed” or “the number of deaths was very great” or “a terribly high number of people died.”
- Other ways to translate “slaughter” could include “kill” or “slay” or “killing.”

(See also: [angel](#), [cow](#), [disobey](#), [Ezekiel](#), [servant](#), [slay](#))

Bible References:

- Ezekiel 21:10-11
- Hebrews 7:1
- Isaiah 34:2
- Jeremiah 25:34

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2026, H2027, H2028, H2076, H2491, H2873, H2874, H2878, H4046, H4293, H4347, H4660, H5221, H6993, H7524, H7819, H7821, G28710, G49670, G49690

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:6](#); [12:21](#); [22:1](#); [29:11](#); [29:16](#); [29:20](#))

slay, slain, slaughter, kill, murder

Definition:

To “slay” a person or animal means to kill it. Often it means to kill it in a forceful or violent way. If a man has killed an animal he has “slain” it.

- When referring to an animal or to a large number of people, the term “slaughter” is another term that is often used.
- An act of slaughtering is also called a “slaughter.”
- The phrase “the slain” could also be translated as “the slain people” or “the people who were killed.”

(See also: [slaughter](#))

Bible References:

- Ezekiel 28:23
- Isaiah 26:21

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2026, H2076, H2491, H2717, H2763, H2873, H2874, H4191, H4194, H5221, H6991, H6992, H7523, H7819, G03370, G06150, G13150, G23800, G26950, G49680, G49690, G54070

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:12](#); [2:14](#); [2:15](#); [4:23](#); [4:24](#); [5:21](#); [20:13](#); [32:12](#))

snare, ensnare, entrap, trap, trapped, pitfall

Definition:

The terms “snare” and “trap” refer to devices that are used to catch animals and keep them from escaping. To “snare” or “ensnare” is to catch with a snare, and to “trap” or “entrap” is to catch with a trap. In the Bible, these terms were also used figuratively to talk about how sin and temptation are like hidden traps that catch people and harm them.

- A “snare” is a loop of rope or wire that suddenly pulls tight when an animal steps into it, ensnaring its leg.
- A “trap” is usually made of metal or wood and has two parts that suddenly and powerfully close together, catching an animal so it can't get away. Sometimes a trap can be a deep hole that has been made in order to get something to fall into it.
- Usually the snare or trap is hidden so that its prey is taken by surprise.
- The phrase “set a trap” means to get a trap ready to capture something.
- To “fall into a trap” refers to falling into a deep hole or pit that was dug and hidden in order to catch an animal.
- A person who starts sinning and cannot stop can be described as “ensnared by sin” in a figurative reference to the way an animal can be ensnared and cannot escape.
- Just as an animal is endangered and hurt by being in a trap, so a person caught in the trap of sin is being harmed by that sin and needs to be set free.

(See also: [free](#), prey, Satan, tempt)

Bible References:

- Ecclesiastes 7:26
- Luke 21:34
- Mark 12:13
- Psalms 18:5

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2256, H3353, H3369, H3920, H3921, H4170, H4204, H4434, H4685, H4686, H4889, H5367, H5914, H6341, H6351, H6354, H6679, H6983, H7639, H7845, H8610, G00640, G23390, G23400, G38020, G38030, G39850, G46250

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:7](#); [23:33](#); [34:12](#))

soldier, warrior

Facts:

The terms “warrior” and “soldier” both can refer to someone who fights in an army. But there are also some differences.

- Usually the term “warrior” is a general, broad term to refer to a man who is gifted and courageous in battle.
- Yahweh is figuratively described as a “warrior.”
- The term “soldier” more specifically refers to someone who belongs to a certain army or who is fighting in a certain battle.
- Roman soldiers in Jerusalem were there to keep order and to carry out duties such as executing prisoners. They guarded Jesus before crucifying him and some were ordered to stand guard at his tomb.
- The translator should consider whether there are two words in the project language for “warrior” and “soldier” that also differ in meaning and use.

(See also: courage, crucify, Rome, [tomb](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 21:5
- Acts 21:33
- Luke 3:14
- Luke 23:11
- Matthew 8:8-10

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0352, H0510, H1368, H1416, H1995, H2389, H2428, H2502, H3715, H4421, H5971, H6518, H6635, H7273, H7916, G46860, G47530, G47540, G47570, G47580, G49610

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:3](#))

son

Definition:

The male offspring of a man and a woman is called their “son” for his entire life. He is also called a son of that man and a son of that woman. An “adopted son” is a male who has been legally placed into the position of being a son.

- The phrase “son of” can be used to identify a person’s father, mother, or an ancestor from some previous generation. This phrase is used in genealogies and many other places.
- The “sons of Israel” are usually the Israelite nation (after Genesis).
- Using “son of” to give the name of the father frequently helps distinguish people who have the same name. For example, “Azariah son of Zadok” and “Azariah son of Nathan” in 1 Kings 4, and “Azariah son of Amaziah” in 2 Kings 15 are three different men.
- The phrase “son of” can be used to associate the person with whatever person or concept comes next. The meaning is then greatly determined by context. It can be positive (eg. 2 Kings 2:16: “sons of ability”), negative (eg. 2 Samuel 7:10: “sons of wickedness”), denote membership in a group, express contempt by not naming the person (eg. “you sons of Zeruiah”), etc.

Translation Suggestions:

- In most occurrences of this term, it is best to translate “son” by the literal term in the language that is used to refer to a son.
- When translating the term “Son of God,” the project language’s common term for “son” should be used.
- Sometimes “sons” can be translated as “children,” when both males and females are being referred to. For example, “sons of God” could be translated as “children of God” since this expression also includes girls and women.

(See also: [descendant](#), [ancestor](#), Son of God, sons of God)

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 18:15
- 1 Kings 13:2
- 1 Thessalonians 5:5
- Galatians 4:7
- Hosea 11:1
- Isaiah 9:6
- Matthew 3:17
- Matthew 5:9
- Matthew 8:12
- Nehemiah 10:28

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **4:8** God spoke to Abram and promised again that he would have a **son** and as many descendants as the stars in the sky.
- **4:9** God said, “I will give you a **son** from your own body.”
- **5:5** About a year later, when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90, Sarah gave birth to Abraham’s **son**.
- **5:8** When they reached the place of sacrifice, Abraham tied up his **son** Isaac and laid him on an altar. He was about to kill his **son** when God said, “Stop! Do not hurt the boy! Now I know that you fear me because you did not keep your only **son** from me.”

- **9:7** When she saw the baby, she took him as her own **son**.
- **11:6** God killed every one of the Egyptians' firstborn **sons**.
- **18:1** After many years, David died, and his **son** Solomon began to rule.
- **26:4** "Is this the **son** of Joseph?" they said.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1060, H1121, H1123, H1248, H3173, H3206, H3211, H4497, H5209, H5220, G38160, G50430, G52070

(Go back to: Exodus 1:1; 1:7; 1:9; 1:12; 1:13; 1:16; 1:17; 1:18; 1:22; 2:2; 2:10; 2:22; 2:23; 2:25; 3:9; 3:10; 3:11; 3:13; 3:14; 3:15; 3:22; 4:20; 4:22; 4:23; 4:25; 4:29; 4:31; 5:14; 5:15; 5:19; 6:5; 6:6; 6:9; 6:11; 6:12; 6:13; 6:14; 6:15; 6:16; 6:17; 6:18; 6:19; 6:21; 6:22; 6:24; 6:25; 6:26; 6:27; 7:2; 7:4; 7:5; 7:7; 9:4; 9:6; 9:26; 9:35; 10:2; 10:9; 10:20; 10:23; 11:7; 11:10; 12:5; 12:24; 12:26; 12:27; 12:28; 12:31; 12:35; 12:37; 12:40; 12:42; 12:43; 12:50; 12:51; 13:2; 13:8; 13:13; 13:14; 13:15; 13:18; 13:19; 14:2; 14:3; 14:8; 14:10; 14:15; 14:16; 14:22; 14:29; 15:1; 15:19; 16:1; 16:2; 16:3; 16:6; 16:9; 16:10; 16:12; 16:15; 16:17; 16:35; 17:1; 17:3; 17:7; 18:3; 18:5; 18:6; 19:1; 19:3; 19:6; 20:5; 20:10; 20:22; 21:4; 21:5; 21:9; 21:31; 22:24; 22:29; 23:12; 24:5; 24:11; 24:17; 25:2; 25:22; 27:20; 27:21; 28:1; 28:4; 28:9; 28:11; 28:12; 28:21; 28:29; 28:30; 28:38; 28:40; 28:41; 28:43; 29:1; 29:4; 29:8; 29:9; 29:10; 29:15; 29:19; 29:20; 29:21; 29:24; 29:27; 29:28; 29:29; 29:30; 29:32; 29:35; 29:38; 29:43; 29:44; 29:45; 30:12; 30:16; 30:19; 30:30; 30:31; 31:2; 31:6; 31:10; 31:13; 31:16; 31:17; 32:2; 32:20; 32:26; 32:28; 32:29; 33:5; 33:6; 33:11; 34:7; 34:16; 34:20; 34:30; 34:32; 34:34; 34:35; 35:1; 35:4; 35:19; 35:20; 35:29; 35:30; 35:34; 36:3; 38:21; 38:22; 38:23; 39:6; 39:7; 39:14; 39:27; 39:32; 39:41; 39:42; 40:12; 40:14; 40:31; 40:36)

sorcerer, sorceress, sorcery, sorceries, witchcraft, magician

Definition:

“Sorcery” or “witchcraft” refers to using magic, which involves doing powerful things through the help of evil spirits. A “sorcerer” is someone who does these powerful, magical things.

- The use of magic and sorcery can involve both beneficial things (such as healing someone) and harmful things (such as putting a curse on someone). But all kinds of sorcery are wrong, because they use the power of evil spirits.
- In the Bible, God says that the use of sorcery is as evil as other terrible sins (such as adultery, worshipping idols, and child sacrifice).
- The terms “sorcery” and “witchcraft” could also be translated as “evil spirit power” or “casting spells.”
- Possible ways to translated “sorcerer” could include “worker of magic” or “person who casts spells” or “person who does miracles using evil spirit power.”
- Note that “sorcery” has a different meaning than the term “divination,” which refers to attempting to contact the spirit world.

(See also: [adultery](#), demon, divination, false god, [magic](#), [sacrifice](#), [worship](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 8:9-11
- Exodus 7:11-13
- Galatians 5:19-21
- Revelation 9:20-21

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3784, H3785, H3786, H6049, G30950, G30960, G30970, G53310, G53320, G53330

(Go back to: [Exodus 7:11; 22:18](#))

soul, self, person

Definition:

The term "soul" can either refer generally to the non-physical part of a person or refer specifically to a person's awareness of themselves as a person distinct from others.

- In the Bible, the terms "soul" and "spirit" may be two different concepts, or they may be two terms that refer to the same concept.
- When a person dies, his soul leaves his body.
- In contrast to the body, the "soul" can be spoken of as the part of a person that "relates to God."
- The word "soul" is sometimes used figuratively to refer to the whole person. For example, "the soul who sins" means "the person who sins" and "my soul is tired" means "I am tired."

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "soul" could also be translated as "inner self" or "inner person."
- In some contexts, "my soul" could be translated as "I" or "me."
- Usually the phrase "the soul" can be translated as "the person" or "he" or "him," depending on the context.
- Some languages might only have one word for the concepts "soul" and "spirit."
- In Hebrews 4:12, the figurative phrase "dividing soul and spirit" could mean "deeply discerning or exposing the inner person."

(See also: [spirit](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Peter 2:8
- Acts 2:27-28
- Acts 2:41
- Genesis 49:6
- Isaiah 53:10-11
- James 1:21
- Jeremiah 6:16-19
- Jonah 2:7-8
- Luke 1:47
- Matthew 22:37
- Psalms 19:7
- Revelation 20:4

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5082, H5315, H5397, G55900

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:5](#); [12:4](#); [12:16](#); [12:19](#); [15:9](#); [16:16](#); [23:9](#))

spirit, wind, breath

Definition:

The term "spirit" refers to the non-physical part of a person which cannot be seen. In biblical times, the concept of a person's spirit was closely related to the concept of a person's breath. The term can also refer to wind, that is, the movement of air in the natural world.

- The term "spirit" can refer to a being that does not have a physical body, such as an evil spirit.
- In general, the term "spiritual" describes things in the non-physical world.
- The term "spirit of" can also mean "having the characteristics of," such as in "spirit of wisdom" or "in the spirit of Elijah." Sometimes the Bible applies this term in the context of a person's attitude or emotional state, such as "spirit of fear" and "spirit of jealousy."
- Jesus said that God is a spirit.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, some ways to translate "spirit" might include "non-physical being" or "inside part" or "inner being."
- In some contexts, the term "spirit" could be translated as "evil spirit" or "evil spirit being."
- Sometimes the term "spirit" is used to express the feelings of a person, as in "my spirit was grieved in my inmost being." This could also be translated as "I felt grieved in my spirit" or "I felt deeply grieved."
- The phrase "spirit of" could be translated as "character of" or "influence of" or "attitude of" or "thinking (that is) characterized by."
- Depending on the context, "spiritual" could be translated as "non-physical" or "from the Holy Spirit" or "God's" or "part of the non-physical world."
- The phrase "spiritual maturity" could be translated as "godly behavior that shows obedience to the Holy Spirit."
- The term "spiritual gift" could be translated as "special ability that the Holy Spirit gives."
- Sometimes this term can be translated as "wind" when referring to the simple movement of air or "breath" when referring to air movement caused by living beings.

(See also: [soul](#), Holy Spirit, demon, breath)

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 5:5
- 1 John 4:3
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- Acts 5:9
- Colossians 1:9
- Ephesians 4:23
- Genesis 7:21-22
- Genesis 8:1
- Isaiah 4:4
- Mark 1:23-26
- Matthew 26:41
- Philippians 1:27

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **13:3** Three days later, after the people had prepared themselves **spiritually**, God came down on top of Mount Sinai with thunder, lightning, smoke, and a loud trumpet blast.
- **40:7** Then Jesus cried out, "It is finished! Father, I give my **spirit** into your hands." Then he bowed his head and gave up his **spirit**.
- **45:5** As Stephen was dying, he cried out, "Jesus, receive my **spirit**."
- **48:7** All the people groups are blessed through him, because everyone who believes in Jesus is saved from sin, and becomes a **spiritual** descendant of Abraham.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0178, H1172, H5397, H7307, H7308, G41510, G41520, G41530, G53260, G54270

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:9](#); [15:10](#); [28:3](#); [31:3](#); [35:21](#); [35:31](#))

splendor

Definition:

The term “splendor” refers to the extreme beauty and elegance that is often associated with wealth and a magnificent appearance.

- Often splendor is used to describe the wealth that a king has, or how he looks in his expensive, beautiful finery.
- The word “splendor” can also be used to describe the beauty of trees, mountains, and other things that God has created.
- Certain cities are said to have splendor because of o their natural resources, elaborate buildings and roads, and the wealth of their people, which includes rich clothing, gold, and silver.
- Depending on the context, this word could be translated as “magnificent beauty” or “amazing majesty” or “kingly greatness.”

(See also: [glory](#), [king](#), [majesty](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 16:27
- Exodus 28:1-3
- Ezekiel 28:7
- Luke 4:7
- Psalms 89:44-45
- Revelation 21:26-27

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1925, H1926, H1927, H1935, H2091, H2122, H2892, H3314, H3519, H6643, H7613, H8597

(Go back to: [Exodus 28:2](#); [28:40](#))

staff, clubs

Definition:

A staff is a long wooden stick or rod, often used as a walking stick.

- When Jacob was old, he used a staff to help him walk.
- God turned Moses' staff into a snake to show his power to Pharaoh.
- Shepherds also used a staff to help guide their sheep, or to rescue the sheep when they fell or wandered.
- The shepherd's staff had a hook on the end, so it differed from the shepherd's rod, which was straight and was used to kill wild animals that were trying to attack the sheep.

(See also: [Pharaoh](#), [power](#), [sheep](#), [shepherd](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 4:1-3
- Exodus 7:9
- Luke 9:3
- Mark 6:7-9
- Matthew 10:8-10
- Matthew 27:29

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4132, H4294, H4731, H4938, H6086, H6418, H7626, G25630, G35860, G44640

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:2](#); [4:4](#); [4:17](#); [4:20](#); [7:9](#); [7:10](#); [7:12](#); [7:15](#); [7:17](#); [7:19](#); [7:20](#); [8:5](#); [8:16](#); [8:17](#); [9:23](#); [10:13](#); [12:11](#); [14:16](#); [17:5](#); [17:9](#); [21:19](#))

statute

Definition:

A statute is a specific written law that provides guidance for people to live by.

- The term “statute” is similar in meaning to “ordinance” and “command” and “law” and “decree.” All these terms involve instructions and requirements that God gives to his people or rulers give to their people.
- King David said that he delighted himself in Yahweh’s statutes.
- The term “statute” could also be translated as “specific command” or “special decree.”

(See also: [command](#), [decree](#), [law](#), [ordinance](#), [Yahweh](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 11:11-13
- Deuteronomy 6:20-23
- Ezekiel 33:15
- Numbers 19:2

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2706, H2708, H7010, G13450

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:14](#); [12:17](#); [12:24](#); [12:43](#); [15:25](#); [18:16](#); [18:20](#); [28:43](#); [29:9](#); [30:21](#))

stiff-necked, stubborn, stubbornness, hard of neck

Definition:

The term “stiff-necked” is an idiom used in the Bible to describe people who keep disobeying God and refuse to repent. Such people are very proud and will not submit to God’s authority.

- Similarly, the term “stubborn” describes a person who refuses to change his mind or actions even when urged to do so. Stubborn people will not listen to good advice or warnings that other people give them.
- The Old Testament described the Israelites as “stiff-necked” because they did not listen to the many messages from God’s prophets who urged them to repent and turn back to Yahweh.
- If a neck is “stiff” it does not bend easily. The project language may have a different idiom that communicates that a person is “unbending” in that he refuses to change his ways.
- Other ways to translate this term could include “pridefully stubborn” or “arrogant and unyielding” or “refusing to change.”

(See also: arrogant, [proud](#), [repent](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 7:51
- Deuteronomy 9:13-14
- Exodus 13:14-16
- Jeremiah 3:17

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0047, H3513, H5637, H6203, H6484, H7185, H7186, H7190, H8307, G04830, G46440, G46450

(Go back to: [Exodus 32:9](#); [33:3](#))

stone, stoning

Definition:

A stone is a small rock. To “stone” someone is to throw stones and larger rocks at that person with the intention of killing him. A “stoning” is an event in which someone was stoned.

- In ancient times, stoning was a common method of executing people as punishment for crimes they had committed.
- God commanded the Israelite leaders to stone people for certain sins, such as adultery.
- In the New Testament, Jesus forgave a woman caught in adultery and stopped people from stoning her.
- Stephen, who was the first person in the Bible to be killed for testifying about Jesus, was stoned to death.
- In the city of Lystra, the apostle Paul was stoned, but he did not die from his wounds.

(See also: [adultery](#), [commit](#), [crime](#), [death](#), [Lystra](#), [testimony](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 7:57-58
- Acts 7:59-60
- Acts 14:5
- Acts 14:19-20
- John 8:4-6
- Luke 13:34
- Luke 20:6
- Matthew 23:37-39

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0068, H0069, H0810, H1382, H1496, H1530, H2106, H2672, H2687, H2789, H4676, H4678, H5553, H5601, H5619, H6344, H6443, H6697, H6864, H6872, H7275, H7671, H8068, G26420, G29910, G30340, G30350, G30360, G30370, G40740, G43480, G55860

(Go back to: [Exodus 8:26](#); [17:4](#); [19:13](#); [21:28](#))

strength, strengthen, strong

Facts:

The term “strength” refers to physical, emotional, or spiritual power. To “strengthen” someone or something means to make that person or object stronger.

- “Strength” can also refer to the power to withstand some kind of opposing force.
- A person has “strength of will” if he is able to avoid sinning when tempted.
- One writer of the Psalms called Yahweh his “strength” because God helped him to be strong.
- If a physical structure like a wall or building is being “strengthened,” people are rebuilding the structure, reinforcing it with more stones or brick so that it can withstand an attack.

Translation Suggestions

- In general, the term “strengthen” can be translated as “cause to be strong” or “make more powerful.”
- In a spiritual sense, the phrase “strengthen your brothers” could also be translated as “encourage your brothers” or “help your brothers to persevere.”
- The following examples show the meaning of these terms, and therefore how they can be translated, when they are included in longer expressions.
 - “puts strength on me like a belt” means “causes me to be completely strong, like a belt that completely surrounds my waist.”
 - “in quietness and trust will be your strength” means “acting calmly and trusting in God will make you spiritually strong.”
 - “will renew their strength” means “will become stronger again.”
 - “by my strength and by my wisdom I acted” means “I have done all this because I am so strong and wise.”
 - “strengthen the wall” means “reinforce the wall” or “rebuild the wall.”
 - “I will strengthen you” means “I will cause you to be strong”
 - “in Yahweh alone are salvation and strength” means “Yahweh is the only one who saves us and strengthens us.”
 - “the rock of your strength” means “the faithful one who makes you strong”
 - “with the saving strength of his right hand” means “he strongly rescues you from trouble like someone who holds you safely with his strong hand.”
 - “of little strength” means “not very strong” or “weak.”
 - “with all my strength” means “using my best efforts” or “strongly and completely.”

(See also: [faithful](#), persevere, right hand, [save](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 18:19-21
- 2 Peter 2:11
- Luke 10:27
- Psalm 21:1

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0193, H0202, H0353, H0360, H0386, H0410, H0553, H0556, H1369, H1396, H2220, H2388, H2391, H2392, H2393, H2428, H3027, H3028, H3559, H3581, H3811, H3955, H4581, H5326, H5331, H5582, H5797, H5807, H5810, H5934, H5975, H6106, H6109, H6697, H6965, H7292, H7307, H8003, H8443, H8632, H8633,

G04610, G09500, G14110, G14120, G17430, G17650, G18400, G19910, G24790, G24800, G29010, G29040,
G36190, G37560, G45990, G47320, G47330, G47410

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:19](#); [4:21](#); [6:1](#); [7:13](#); [7:22](#); [8:19](#); [9:2](#); [9:12](#); [9:35](#); [10:19](#); [10:20](#); [10:27](#); [11:10](#); [12:33](#); [13:3](#); [13:9](#);
[13:14](#); [14:4](#); [14:8](#); [14:17](#); [14:21](#); [15:2](#); [15:13](#); [19:16](#); [32:11](#))

Succoth

Definition:

Succoth was the name of two Old Testament cities. The word, "succoth" (or "sukkoth") means "shelters."

- The first city called Succoth was located on the east side of the Jordan River.
- Jacob stayed at Succoth with his family and flocks, building shelters for them there.
- Hundreds of years later, Gideon and his exhausted men stopped at Succoth as they were chasing the Midanites, but the people there refused to give them any food.
- The second Succoth was located on the northern border of Egypt and was a place where the Israelites stopped after they crossed the Red Sea as they were escaping from slavery in Egypt.

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 7:46
- Exodus 12:37-40
- Joshua 13:27-28
- Judges 8:4-5

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5523, H5524

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:37](#); [13:20](#))

sword, swordsmen

Definition:

A sword is a flat-bladed metal weapon used to cut or stab. It has a handle and a long, pointed blade with a very sharp cutting edge.

- In ancient times the length of a sword's blade was about 60 to 91 centimeters.
- Some swords have two sharp edges and are called "double-edged" or "two-edged" swords.
- Jesus' disciples had swords for self defense. With his sword, Peter cut off the ear of the high priest's servant.
- Both John the Baptist and the apostle James were beheaded with swords.

Translation Suggestions

- A sword is used as a metaphor for God's word. God's teachings in the Bible exposed people's innermost thoughts and convicted them of their sin. In a similar way, a sword cuts deeply, causing pain. (See: [Metaphor](#))
- One way to translate this figurative use would be, "God's word is like a sword, which cuts deeply and exposes sin."
- Another figurative use of this term occurred in the book of Psalms, where the tongue or speech of a person was compared to a sword, which can injure people. This could be translated as "the tongue is like a sword that can badly injure someone."
- If swords are not known in your culture, this word could be translated with the name of another long-bladed weapon that is used to cut or stab.
- A sword could also be described as a "sharp weapon" or "long knife." Some translations could include a picture of a sword.

(See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See also: James (brother of Jesus), John (the Baptist), [tongue](#), [word of God](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 12:2
- Genesis 27:40
- Genesis 34:25
- Luke 2:33-35
- Luke 21:24
- Matthew 10:34
- Matthew 26:55
- Revelation 1:16

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0019, H1300, H2719, H4380, H6609, H7524, H7973, G31620, G45010

(Go back to: [Exodus 5:3](#); [5:21](#); [15:9](#); [17:13](#); [22:24](#); [32:27](#))

tabernacle

Definition:

The tabernacle was a special tent-like structure where the Israelites worshiped God during the 40 years they traveled around in the desert.

- God had given the Israelites detailed instructions for building this large tent, which had two rooms and was surrounded by an enclosed courtyard.
- Each time the Israelites moved to a different place in the desert to live, the priests would take the tabernacle apart and carry it to their next campsite. Then they would set it up again in the center of their new camp.
- The tabernacle was constructed of wood frames hung with curtains made of cloth, goat hair, and animal skins. The courtyard surrounding it was enclosed with more curtains.
- The two sections of the tabernacle were the Holy Place (where the altar for burning incense was located) and the Most Holy Place (where the ark of the covenant was kept).
- The courtyard of the tabernacle had an altar for burning animal sacrifices and a special washbasin for ritual cleansing.
- The Israelites stopped using the tabernacle when the temple was built in Jerusalem by Solomon.

Translation Suggestions:

- The word “tabernacle” means “dwelling place.” Other ways to translate it could include, “sacred tent” or “tent where God was” or “God’s tent.”
- Make sure that the translation of this term is different from the translation of “temple.”

(See also: [altar](#), [altar of incense](#), [ark of the covenant](#), [temple](#), [tent of meeting](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 21:30
- 2 Chronicles 1:2-5
- Acts 7:43
- Acts 7:45
- Exodus 38:21
- Joshua 22:19-20
- Leviticus 10:16-18

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0168, H4908, H5520, H5521, H5522, H7900, G46330, G46340, G46360, G46380

(Go back to: [Introduction to Exodus](#); [Exodus 25:9](#); [Notes](#); [26:1](#); [26:6](#); [26:7](#); [26:12](#); [26:13](#); [26:15](#); [26:17](#); [26:18](#); [26:20](#); [26:22](#); [26:23](#); [26:26](#); [26:27](#); [26:30](#); [26:35](#); [27:9](#); [27:19](#); [27:21](#); [33:7](#); [33:8](#); [33:9](#); [33:10](#); [33:11](#); [35:11](#); [35:15](#); [35:18](#); [35:21](#); [36:8](#); [36:13](#); [36:14](#); [36:20](#); [36:22](#); [36:23](#); [36:25](#); [36:27](#); [36:28](#); [36:31](#); [36:32](#); [38:8](#); [38:20](#); [38:21](#); [38:30](#); [38:31](#); [39:32](#); [39:33](#); [39:38](#); [39:40](#); [Notes](#); [40:2](#); [40:5](#); [40:6](#); [40:7](#); [40:9](#); [40:12](#); [40:17](#); [40:18](#); [40:19](#); [40:21](#); [40:22](#); [40:24](#); [40:26](#); [40:28](#); [40:29](#); [40:32](#); [40:33](#); [40:34](#); [40:35](#); [40:36](#); [40:38](#))

teach, teaching, untaught

Definition:

To “teach” someone is to tell him something he doesn’t already know. It can also mean to “provide information” in general, with no reference to the person who is learning. Usually the information is given in a formal or systematic way. A person’s “teaching” is or his “teachings” are what he has taught.

- A “teacher” is someone who teaches. The past action of “teach” is “taught.”
- When Jesus was teaching, he was explaining things about God and his kingdom.
- Jesus’ disciples called him “Teacher” as a respectful form of address for someone who taught people about God.
- The information that is being taught can be shown or spoken.
- The term “doctrine” refers to a set of teachings from God about himself as well as God’s instructions about how to live. This could also be translated as “teachings from God” or “what God teaches us.”
- The phrase “what you have been taught” could also be translated as “what these people have taught you” or “what God has taught you,” depending on the context.
- Other ways to translate “teach” could include “tell” or “explain” or “instruct.”
- Often this term can be translated as “teaching people about God.”

(See also: [instruct](#), [teacher](#), [word of God](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Timothy 1:3
- Acts 2:40-42
- John 7:14
- Luke 4:31
- Matthew 4:23
- Psalms 32:8

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0502, H2094, H2449, H3045, H3046, H3256, H3384, H3925, H3948, H7919, H8150, G13170, G13210, G13220, G20850, G26050, G27270, G31000, G23120, G25670, G38110, G49940

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:12](#); [4:15](#); [24:12](#))

tent of meeting

Facts:

The term “tent of meeting” refers to a tent which was a temporary place where God met with Moses before the tabernacle was built.

- The tent of meeting was set up outside the camp of the Israelites.
- When Moses went into the tent of meeting to meet with God, a pillar of cloud would stand at the entrance to the tent as a sign of God’s presence there.
- After the Israelites built the tabernacle, the temporary tent was no longer needed and the term “tent of meeting” was sometimes used to refer to the tabernacle.

(See also: [Israel](#), [Moses](#), [pillar](#), [tabernacle](#), [tent](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 2:28-29
- Joshua 19:51
- Leviticus 1:2
- Numbers 4:31-32

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **13:8** God gave the Israelites a detailed description of a tent he wanted them to make. It was called the **Tent of Meeting**, and it had two rooms, separated by a large curtain.
- **13:9** Anyone who disobeyed God’s law could bring an animal to the altar in front of the **Tent of Meeting** as a sacrifice to God.
- **14:8** God was very angry and came to the **Tent of Meeting**.
- **18:2** Instead of at the **Tent of Meeting**, people now worshiped God and offered sacrifices to him at the Temple.

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0168, H4150

(Go back to: [Exodus 28:43](#); [29:4](#); [29:10](#); [29:11](#); [29:30](#); [29:32](#); [29:42](#); [29:44](#); [30:16](#); [30:18](#); [30:20](#); [30:36](#); [31:7](#); [40:30](#))

tent, tentmakers

Definition:

A tent is a portable shelter made of sturdy fabric that is draped over a structure of poles and attached to them.

- Tents can be small, with just enough space for a few people to sleep in, or they can be very large, with space for an entire family to sleep, cook, and live in.
- For many people, tents are used as permanent dwelling places. For example, during most of the time that Abraham's family lived in the land of Canaan, they dwelled in large tents constructed from sturdy cloth made of goat hair.
- The Israelites also lived in tents during their forty-year wanderings through the desert of Sinai.
- The tabernacle building was a kind of very large tent, with thick walls made of cloth curtains.
- When the apostle Paul traveled to different cities to share the gospel, he supported himself by making tents.
- The term "tents" is sometimes used figuratively to refer generally to where people live. This could also be translated as "homes" or "dwellings" or "houses" or even "bodies." (See: [synecdoche](#))

(See also: [Abraham](#), [Canaan](#), [curtain](#), [Paul](#), [Sinai](#), [tabernacle](#), [tent of meeting](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 5:10
- Daniel 11:45
- Exodus 16:18
- Genesis 12:9

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0167, H0168, H2583, H3407, H6898

(Go back to: [Exodus 35:11](#); [39:33](#))

terror, terrorize, terrify, dread, panic

Definition:

The term "terror" refers to a feeling of extreme or intense fear. To "terrify" someone means to cause that person to feel very afraid.

- A "terror" is something or someone that causes great fear or dread. An example of a terror could be an attacking enemy army or a plague or disease that is widespread, killing many people.
- These terrors can be described as "terrifying." This term could be translated as "fear-causing" or "terror-producing."
- The judgment of God will someday cause terror in unrepentant people who reject his grace.
- The "terror of Yahweh" could be translated as "the terrifying presence of Yahweh" or "the dreaded judgment of Yahweh" or "when Yahweh causes great fear."
- Ways to translate "terror" could also include "extreme fear" or "deep dread."

(See also: [adversary](#), [fear](#), [judge](#), [plague](#), [Yahweh](#))

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 2:25
- Exodus 14:10
- Luke 21:9
- Mark 6:48-50

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0367, H0926, H0928, H1091, H1161, H1204, H1205, H1763, H2111, H2113, H2189, H2731, H2847, H2851, H2865, H3372, H3707, H4032, H4172, H4288, H4637, H6184, H6206, H6343, H6973, G16290, G16300, G22580, G44220, G44260, G54010

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:15](#); [15:16](#); [23:27](#))

test, tested, testing, testing in the fire

Definition:

The term “test” refers to a difficult or painful experience that reveals a person’s strengths and weaknesses.

- God tests people, but he does not tempt them to sin. Satan, however, tempts people to sin.
- God sometimes uses tests to expose people’s sin. A test helps a person to turn away from sin and to draw closer to God.
- Gold and other metals are tested with fire to find out how pure and strong they are. This is a picture of how God uses painful circumstances to test his people.
- To “put to the test” can mean, “challenge something or someone to prove its value.”
- In the context of putting God to the test, it means to try to make him do a miracle for us, taking advantage of his mercy.
- Jesus told Satan that it is wrong to put God to the test. He is the almighty, holy God who is above everything and everyone.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term to “test” could also be translated as, to “challenge” or to “cause to experience difficulties” or to “prove.”
- Ways to translate “a test” could be, “a challenge” or “a difficult experience.”
- To “put to the test” could be translated as to “test” or to “set up a challenge” or to “force to prove oneself.”
- In the context of testing God, this could be translated as “trying to force God to prove his love.”
- In some contexts, when God is not the subject, the term “test” can mean “tempt.”

(See also: tempt)

Bible References:

- 1 John 4:1
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21
- Acts 15:10
- Genesis 22:1
- Isaiah 7:13
- James 1:12
- Lamentations 3:40-43
- Malachi 3:10
- Philippians 1:10
- Psalm 26:2

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H5254, H5713, H5715, H5749, H6030, H8584, G12420, G12630, G13030, G13820, G19570, G31400, G31410, G31420, G31430, G39840, G43030, G44510, G48280, G60200

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:25](#); [16:4](#); [17:2](#); [17:7](#); [20:20](#))

testimony, testify, witness, eyewitness, evidence

Definition:

When a person gives “testimony” he makes a statement about something he knows, claiming that the statement is true. To “testify” is to give “testimony.”

- In some places in the Old Testament, “Testimony” refers specifically to the tablets of stone on which Yahweh wrote his ten commandments. From that use it came to refer to God’s law more broadly.
- Often a person “testifies” about something he has experienced directly.
- A witness who gives “false testimony” does not tell the truth about what happened.
- Sometimes the term “testimony” refers to a prophecy that a prophet has stated.
- In the New Testament, this term was often used to refer to how Jesus’ followers testified about the events of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

The term “witness” refers to a person who has personally experienced something that happened. Usually a witness is also someone who testifies about what they know is true. The term “eyewitness” emphasizes that the person was actually there and saw what happened.

- To “witness” something means to see it happen.
- At a trial, a witness “gives witness” or “bears witness.” This has the same meaning as “testify.”
- Witnesses are expected to tell the truth about what they have seen or heard.
- A witness who does not tell the truth about what happened is called a “false witness.” He is said to “give false witness” or to “bear false witness.”
- The expression “be a witness between” means that something or someone will be evidence that a contract has been made. The witness will make sure each person does what he has promised to do.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term “testify” or “give testimony” could also be translated as “tell the facts” or “tell what was seen or heard” or “tell from personal experience” or “give evidence” or “tell what happened.”
- Ways to translate “testimony” could include, “report of what happened” or “statement of what is true” or “evidence” or “what has been said” or “prophecy.”
- Ways to translate “Testimony” could include, “the stone slabs on which I wrote my commands” or “God’s law” or “God’s commands” or “the record of the agreement between Yahweh and Israel.”
- The phrase, “as a testimony to them” could be translated as to “show them what is true” or to “prove to them what is true.”
- The phrase, “as a testimony against them” could be translated as “which will show them their sin” or “exposing their hypocrisy” or “which will prove that they are wrong.”
- To “give false testimony” could be translated as “say false things about” or “state things that are not true.”
- The term “witness” or “eyewitness” could be translated with a word or phrase that means “person seeing it” or “the one who saw it happen” or “those who saw and heard (those things).”
- Something that is “a witness” could be translated as “guarantee” or “sign of our promise” or “something that testifies that this is true.”
- The phrase “you will be my witnesses” could also be translated as “you will tell other people about me” or “you will teach people the truth that I taught you” or “you will tell people what you have seen me do and heard me teach.”
- To “witness to” could be translated as to “tell what was seen” or to “testify” or to “state what happened.”
- To “witness” something could be translated as to “see something” or to “experience something happen.”

(See also: [ark of the covenant](#), [guilt](#), [judge](#), [prophet](#), [true](#))

Bible References:

- Deuteronomy 31:28
- Micah 6:3
- Matthew 26:60
- Mark 1:44
- John 1:7
- John 3:33
- Acts 4:32-33
- Acts 7:44
- Acts 13:31
- Romans 1:9
- 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12
- 1 Timothy 5:19-20
- 2 Timothy 1:8
- 2 Peter 1:16-18
- 1 John 5:6-8
- 3 John 1:12
- Revelation 12:11

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **39:2** Inside the house, the Jewish leaders put Jesus on trial. They brought many **false witnesses** who lied about him.
- **39:4** The high priest tore his clothes in anger and shouted, "We do not need any more **witnesses**. You have heard him say that he is the Son of God. What is your judgment?"
- **42:8** "It was also written in the scriptures that my disciples will proclaim that everyone should repent in order to receive forgiveness for their sins. They will do this starting in Jerusalem, and then go to all people groups everywhere. You are **witnesses** of these things."
- **43:7** "We are **witnesses** to the fact that God raised Jesus to life again."

Word Data:

- Strong's: H5707, H5713, H5715, H5749, H6030, H8584, G02670, G12630, G19570, G26490, G31400, G31410, G31420, G31430, G31440, G43030, G48280, G49010, G55750, G55760, G55770, G60200

(Go back to: [Exodus 20:16](#); [22:13](#); [23:1](#); [23:2](#); [25:16](#); [25:21](#); [27:21](#); [30:6](#); [30:36](#); [32:15](#); [38:21](#); [40:20](#))

the sea, the Great Sea, the western sea, Mediterranean Sea

Facts:

In the Bible, the “Great Sea” or “western sea” refers to what is now called the “Mediterranean Sea,” which was the largest body of water known to the people of Bible times.

- The Mediterranean Sea is bordered by: Israel (east), Europe (north and west), and Africa (south).
- This sea was very important in ancient times for trade and travel since it bordered so many countries. Cities and people groups located on the coast of this sea were very prosperous because of how easy it was to access goods from other countries by boat.
- Since the Great Sea was located to the west of Israel, it was sometimes referred to as the “western sea.”

(Translation suggestions: [Translate Names](#))

(See also: [Israel](#), [people group](#), prosper)

Bible References:

- Ezekiel 47:15-17
- Ezekiel 47:18-20
- Joshua 15:3-4
- Numbers 13:27-29

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0314, H1419, H3220

(Go back to: [Exodus 23:31](#))

throne, enthroned

Definition:

A throne is a specially-designed chair where a ruler sits when he decides important matters and listens to requests from his people.

- A throne is also a symbol of the authority and power that a ruler has.
- The word “throne” can also be used to refer to the ruler, his reign, or his power.
- In the Bible, God was often portrayed as a king who sits on his throne. Jesus was described as sitting on a throne at the right hand of God the Father.
- Jesus said that heaven is God’s throne. One way to translate this could be, “where God reigns as king.”

(See also: [authority](#), [power](#), [king](#), [reign](#))

Bible References:

- Colossians 1:15-17
- Genesis 41:40
- Luke 1:32
- Luke 22:30
- Matthew 5:34
- Matthew 19:28
- Revelation 1:4-6

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H3427, H3676, H3678, H3764, H7675, G09680, G23620

(Go back to: [Exodus 11:5](#); [12:29](#))

time, untimely, date

Facts:

In the Bible the term “time” was often used figuratively to refer to a specific season or period of time when certain events took place. It has a meaning similar to “age” or “epoch” or “season.”

- “Time” can mean “occasion” in a phrase like “third time.” The phrase “many times” can mean “on many occasions.”
- Depending on the context, the term “time” could be translated as, “season” or “time period” or “moment” or “event” or “occurrence.”
- The phrase “times and seasons” is a figurative expression which states the same idea twice. This could also be translated as “certain events happening in certain time periods.” (See: [doublet](#))

(See also: age, tribulation)

Bible References:

- Acts 1:7
- Daniel 12:1-2
- Mark 11:11
- Matthew 8:29
- Psalms 68:28-29
- Revelation 14:15

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0116, H0227, H0310, H1697, H1755, H2165, H2166, H2233, H2465, H3027, H3117, H3118, H3119, H3259, H3427, H3967, H4150, H4279, H4489, H4557, H5331, H5703, H5732, H5750, H5769, H6235, H6256, H6440, H6471, H6635, H6924, H7105, H7138, H7223, H7272, H7281, H7637, H7651, H7655, H7659, H7674, H7992, H8027, H8032, H8138, H8145, H8462, H8543, G07440, G05300, G10740, G12080, G14410, G15970, G16260, G19090, G20340, G21190, G21210, G22350, G22500, G25400, G34610, G35680, G37640, G38190, G39560, G39990, G41780, G41810, G41830, G42180, G42870, G43400, G44550, G51190, G51510, G53050, G55500, G55510, G56100

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:14](#); [9:27](#); [18:22](#); [18:26](#))

tongue, language

Definition:

The term “tongue” refers to the organ inside a person’s mouth that is used to speak. The term is often used figuratively to mean “language” or “speaking.” There also several other figurative meanings as well.

- In the Bible, the most common figurative meaning for this term is “language” or “speech.”
- Sometimes “tongue” may refer to a human language spoken by a certain people group.
- Other times it refers to a supernatural language that the Holy Spirit gives believers in Christ as one of the “gifts of the Spirit.”
- In the book of Acts, the expression “tongues” of fire refers to “flames” of fire, presumably shaped like tongues.

Translation Suggestions

- Depending on the context, the term “tongue” can be translated as “language” or “supernatural language.” If it is not clear which one it is referring to, it is better to translate it as “language.”
- When referring to fire, this term could be translated as “flames.”
- The expression “my tongue rejoices” could be translated as “I rejoice and praise God” or “I am joyfully praising God.”
- The phrase, “tongue that lies” could be translated as “person who tell lies” or “people who lie.”
- Phrases such as “with their tongues” could be translated as “with what they say” or “by their words.”

(See also: [gift](#), [Holy Spirit](#), [joy](#), [praise](#), [rejoice](#), [spirit](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 12:10
- 1 John 3:18
- 2 Samuel 23:2
- Acts 2:26
- Ezekiel 36:3
- Philippians 2:11

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H3956, G11000, G12580, G20840

(Go back to: [Exodus 4:10](#))

transgress, transgression

Definition:

The term “transgress” means to cross a line or to violate a boundary. The term is often used figuratively, meaning to break a command, rule, or moral code.

- This term is very similar to the word “trespass,” but is generally used more often to describe violations against God than against other people.
- To “transgress” can also be described as to “cross a line,” that is, to go beyond a limit or boundary that has been set for the good of the person and others.

Translation Suggestions:

- To “transgress” could be translated as to “sin” or to “disobey” or to “rebel.”
- If a verse or passage uses two terms that mean “sin” or “transgress” or “trespass,” it is important, if possible, to use different ways to translate these terms. When the Bible uses two or more terms with similar meanings in the same context, usually its purpose is to emphasize what is being said or to show its importance.

(See: [parallelism](#))

(See also: [disobey](#), [sin](#), [trespass](#), [iniquity](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 4:6
- Daniel 9:24-25
- Galatians 3:19-20
- Galatians 6:1-2
- Numbers 14:17-19
- Psalm 32:1

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0898, H4603, H4604, H6586, H6588, G04580, G04590, G38450, G38470, G38480, G39280

(Go back to: [Exodus 23:21](#))

tremble, stagger, shake

Definition:

The term “tremble” means to quiver or to shake slightly and repeatedly, usually from fear or distress. The term can also be used figuratively, meaning “to be very afraid.”

- Sometimes when the ground shakes it is said to “tremble.” It can do this during an earthquake or in response to a very loud noise.
- The Bible says that in the presence of the Lord the earth will tremble. This could mean that the people of the earth will shake out of fear of God or that the earth itself will shake.
- This term could be translated as “be afraid” or “fear God” or “shake,” depending on the context.

(See also: [earth](#), [fear](#), [Lord](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Corinthians 7:15
- 2 Samuel 22:44-46
- Acts 16:29-31
- Jeremiah 5:22
- Luke 8:47

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1674, H2111, H2112, H2151, H2342, H2648, H2729, H2730, H2731, H5128, H5568, H6342, H6426, H6427, H7264, H7268, H7269, H7322, H7460, H7461, H7481, H7493, H7578, H8078, H8653, G17900, G51410, G51560, G54250

(Go back to: [Exodus 15:14](#); [15:15](#); [19:16](#); [20:18](#))

tribe, tribal, tribesmen

Definition:

A tribe is a group of people who are descended from a common ancestor.

- People from the same tribe usually also share a common language and culture.
- In the Old Testament, God divided the people of Israel into twelve tribes. Each tribe was descended from a son or grandson of Jacob.
- A tribe is smaller than a nation, but larger than a clan.

(See also: [clan](#), [nation](#), [people group](#), twelve tribes of Israel)

Bible References:

- 1 Samuel 10:19
- 2 Kings 17:16-18
- Genesis 25:16
- Genesis 49:17
- Luke 2:36-38

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0523, H4294, H7625, H7626, G14290, G54430

(Go back to: [Exodus 24:4](#); [28:21](#); [31:2](#); [31:6](#); [35:30](#); [35:34](#); [38:22](#); [38:23](#); [39:14](#))

trouble, disturb, stir up, distress, hardship, calamity

Definition:

A “trouble” is an experience in life that is very difficult and distressing. To “trouble” someone means to “bother” that person or to cause him distress. To be “troubled” means to feel upset or distressed about something.

- Troubles can be physical, emotional, or spiritual things that hurt a person.
- In the Bible, often troubles are times of testing that God uses to help believers mature and grow in their faith.
- The Old Testament use of “trouble” also referred to judgment that came on people groups who were immoral and rejected God.

Translation Suggestions

- The term “trouble” or “troubles” could also be translated as “danger” or “painful things that happen” or “persecution” or “difficult experiences” or “distress.”
- The term “troubled” could be translated with a word or phrase that means “undergoing distress” or “feeling terrible distress” or “worried” or “anxious” or “distressed” or “terrified” or “disturbed.”
- “Don’t trouble her” could also be translated as “don’t bother her” or “don’t criticize her.”
- The phrase “day of trouble” or “times of trouble” could also be translated as “when you experience distress” or “when difficult things happen to you” or “when God causes distressing things to happen.”
- Ways to translate “make trouble” or “bring trouble” could include “cause distressing things to happen” or “cause difficulties” or “make them experience very difficult things.”

(See also: [afflict](#), persecute)

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 18:18-19
- 2 Chronicles 25:19
- Luke 24:38
- Matthew 24:6
- Matthew 26:36-38

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0205, H0926, H0927, H1204, H1607, H1644, H1804, H2000, H4103, H5916, H5999, H6031, H6040, H6470, H6696, H6862, H6869, H6887, H7264, H7267, H7451, H7489, H8513, G03870, G16130, G17760, G23460, G23470, G23500, G23600, G28730, G36360, G39260, G39300, G39860, G44230, G46600, G50150, G51820

(Go back to: [Exodus 18:8](#))

true, truth

Definition:

The term "truth" refers to facts, events, and statements that correspond with reality. True facts describe the universe as it really exists. True events are events that actually happened. True statements are statements that are not false according to the real world.

- "True" things are real, genuine, actual, rightful, legitimate, and factual.
- "Truth" means understandings, beliefs, facts, or statements that are true.
- To say that a prophecy "came true" or "will come true" means that it actually happened as predicted or that it will happen that way.
- In the Bible the concept of "truth" includes the concept of acting in a way that is reliable and faithful.
- Jesus revealed God's truth in the words that he spoke.
- The Bible is truth. It teaches what is true about God and about everything he has made.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context and what is being described, the term "true" could also be translated by "real" or "factual" or "correct" or "right" or "certain" or "genuine."
- Ways to translate the term "truth" could include "what is true" or "fact" or "certainty" or "principle."
- The expression "come true" could also be translated as "actually happen" or "be fulfilled" or "happen as predicted."
- The expression "tell the truth" or "speak the truth" could also be translated as "say what is true" or "tell what really happened" or "say things that are reliable."
- To "accept the truth" could be translated as "believe what is true about God."
- In an expression such as "worship God in spirit and in truth," the expression "in truth" could also be translated by "faithfully obeying what God has taught us."

(See also: [believe](#), [faithful](#), [fulfill](#), [obey](#), [prophet](#), [understand](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
- 1 John 1:5-7
- 1 John 2:8
- 3 John 1:8
- Acts 26:24-26
- Colossians 1:6
- Genesis 47:29-31
- James 1:18
- James 3:14
- James 5:19
- Jeremiah 4:2
- John 1:9
- John 1:16-18
- John 1:51
- John 3:31-33
- Joshua 7:19-21
- Lamentations 5:19-22
- Matthew 8:10
- Matthew 12:17
- Psalm 26:1-3

- Revelation 1:19-20
- Revelation 15:3-4

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **2:4** The snake responded to the woman, "That is not **true!** You will not die."
- **14:6** Immediately Caleb and Joshua, the other two spies, said, "It is *true* that the people of Canaan are tall and strong, but we can certainly defeat them!"
- **16:1** The Israelites began to worship the Canaanite gods instead of Yahweh, the *true* God.
- **31:8** They worshiped Jesus, saying to him, "**Truly**, you are the Son of God."
- **39:10** "I have come to earth to tell the **truth** about God. Everyone who loves the **truth** listens to me." Pilate said, "What is **truth?**"

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0199, H0389, H0403, H0529, H0530, H0543, H0544, H0551, H0571, H0935, H3321, H3330, H6237, H6656, H6965, H7187, H7189, G02250, G02260, G02270, G02280, G02300, G11030, G33030, G34830, G36890, G41030, G41370

(Go back to: [Exodus 34:6](#))

trust, trusted, trustworthy, trustworthiness

Definition:

To “trust” something or someone is to believe that the thing or person is true or dependable. That belief is also called “trust.” A “trustworthy” person is one you can trust to do and say what is right and true, and therefore one who has the quality of “trustworthiness.”

- Trust is closely related to faith. If we trust someone, we have faith in that person to do what they promised to do.
- Having trust in someone also means depending on that person.
- To “trust in” Jesus means to believe that he is God, to believe that he died on the cross to pay for our sins, and to rely on him to save us.
- A “trustworthy saying” refers to something that is said that can be counted on to be true.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate “trust” could include “believe” or “have faith” or “have confidence” or “depend on.”
- The phrase “put your trust in” is very similar in meaning to “trust in.”
- The term “trustworthy” could be translated as “dependable” or “reliable” or “can always be trusted.”

(See also: [believe](#), confidence, [faith](#), [faithful](#), [true](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 9:22-24
- 1 Timothy 4:9
- Hosea 10:12-13
- Isaiah 31:1-2
- Nehemiah 13:13
- Psalm 31:5
- Titus 3:8

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **12:12** When the Israelites saw that the Egyptians were dead, they **trusted** in God and believed that Moses was a prophet of God.
- **14:15** Joshua was a good leader because he **trusted** and obeyed God.
- **17:2** David was a humble and righteous man who **trusted** and obeyed God.
- **34:6** Then Jesus told a story about people who **trusted** in their own good deeds and despised other people.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0539, H0982, H1556, H2620, H2622, H3176, H4009, H4268, H7365, G16790, G38720, G39820, G40060, G41000, G42760

(Go back to: [Exodus 16 General Notes](#))

tunic

Definition:

In the Bible, the term “tunic” referred to a garment that was worn next to the skin, under other clothing.

- A tunic reached from the shoulders down to the waist or knees and was usually worn with a belt. Tunics worn by wealthy people sometimes had sleeves and reached down to the ankles.
- Tunics were made of leather, haircloth, wool, or linen, and were worn by both men and women.
- A tunic was normally worn under a longer over-garment, such as a toga or outer robe. In warmer weather a tunic was sometimes worn with no outer garment.
- This term could be translated as “long shirt” or “long undergarment” or “shirt-like garment.” It could also be written in a similar way to “tunic,” with a note to explain what kind of clothing it was.

(See also: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))

(See Also: [robe](#))

Bible References:

- Daniel 3:21-23
- Isaiah 22:21
- Leviticus 8:12-13
- Luke 3:11
- Mark 6:7-9
- Matthew 10:10

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2243, H3801, H6361, G55090

(Go back to: [Exodus 28:4](#); [28:39](#); [28:40](#); [29:5](#); [29:8](#); [39:27](#); [40:14](#))

turn, turn away, turn back, return

Definition:

To “turn” means to physically change direction or to cause something else to change direction.

- The term “turn” can also mean “turn around” to look behind or to face a different direction.
- To “turn back” or “turn away” means to “go back” or “go away” or “cause to go away.”
- To “turn away from” can mean to “stop” doing something or to reject someone.
- To “turn toward” someone means to look directly at that person.
- To “turn and leave” or “turn his back to leave” means to “go away.”
- To “turn back to” means to “start doing something again.”
- To “turn away from” means to “stop doing something.”
- To “turn aside” means to change direction, it often means to either stop doing right and start doing evil or the opposite.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, “turn” can be translated as “change direction” or “go” or “move.”
- In some contexts, “turn” could be translated as “cause” (someone) to do something. To “turn (someone) away from” could be translated as “cause (someone) to go away” or “cause (someone) to stop.”
- The phrase “turn away from God” could be translated as “stop worshiping God.”
- The phrase “turn back to God” could be translated as “start worshiping God again.”
- When enemies “turn back,” it means they “retreat.” To “turn back the enemy” means to “cause the enemy to retreat.”
- Used figuratively, when Israel “turned to” false gods, they “started to worship” them. When they “turned away” from idols, they “stopped worshiping” them.
- When God “turned away from” his rebellious people, he “stopped protecting” or “stopped helping” them.
- The phrase “turn the hearts of the fathers to their children” could be translated as “cause fathers to care for their children again.”
- The expression “turn my honor into shame” could be translated as “cause my honor to become shame” or “dishonor me so that I am shamed” or “shame me (by doing what is evil) so that people no longer honor me.”
- “I will turn your cities into ruin” could be translated as “I will cause your cities to be destroyed” or “I will cause enemies to destroy your cities.”
- The phrase “turn into” could be translated as “become.” When Moses’ rod “turned into” a snake, it “became” a snake. It could also be translated as “changed into.”

(See also: false god, leprosy, [worship](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 11:2
- Acts 7:42
- Acts 11:21
- Jeremiah 36:1-3
- Luke 1:17
- Malachi 4:6
- Revelation 11:6

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0541, H2015, H2017, H2186, H2559, H3943, H4672, H4740, H4878, H5186, H5253, H5414, H5437, H5472, H5493, H5528, H5627, H5753, H6437, H7227, H7725, H7734, H7750, H7760, H7847, H8159, H8447, G03440, G03870, G04020, G06540, G06650, G08680, G12940, G15780, G16120, G16240, G19940, G31790, G33130, G33290, G33440, G33460, G47620, G51570, G52900

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:12](#); [3:3](#); [3:4](#); [7:23](#); [10:6](#); [10:19](#); [16:10](#); [23:2](#); [23:6](#))

understand, understanding, thinking

Definition:

The term “understand” means to hear or receive information and know what it means.

- The term “understanding” can refer to “knowledge” or “wisdom” or realizing how to do something.
- To understand someone can also mean to know how that person is feeling.
- While walking on the road to Emmaus, Jesus caused the disciples to understand the meaning of the scriptures about the Messiah.
- Depending on the context, the term “understand” could be translated by “know” or “believe” or “comprehend” or “know what (something) means.”
- Often the term “understanding” can be translated by “knowledge” or “wisdom” or “insight.”

(See also: [believe](#), [know](#), [wise](#))

Bible References:

- Job 34:16-17
- Luke 2:47
- Luke 8:10
- Matthew 13:12
- Matthew 13:14
- Proverbs 3:5

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0995, H0998, H0999, H1847, H2940, H3045, H3820, H3824, H4486, H7200, H7919, H7922, H7924, H8085, H8394, G00500, G01450, G01910, G08010, G10970, G11080, G12710, G19210, G19220, G19870, G19900, G26570, G35390, G35630, G49070, G49080, G49200, G54240, G54280, G54290

(Go back to: [Exodus 31:3](#); [35:31](#); [36:1](#))

unleavened bread

Definition:

The term “unleavened bread” refers to bread that is made without yeast or other leavening. This kind of bread is flat because it has no leaven to make it rise.

- When God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, he told them to flee Egypt quickly without waiting for their bread to rise. So they ate unleavened bread with their meal. Since then unleavened bread is used in their yearly Passover celebrations to remind them of that time.
- Since leaven sometimes is used as a picture of sin, “unleavened bread” represents the removal of sin from a person’s life in order to live in a way that honors God.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate this term could include “bread with no yeast” or “flat bread that did not rise.”
- Make sure the translation of this term is consistent with how you translate the term “yeast, leaven.”
- In some contexts, the term “unleavened bread” refers to the “Feast of Unleavened Bread” and can be translated that way.

(See also: [bread](#), [Egypt](#), [feast](#), [Passover](#), [servant](#), [sin](#), [yeast](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
- 2 Chronicles 30:13-15
- Acts 12:3
- Exodus 23:14-15
- Ezra 6:21-22
- Genesis 19:1-3
- Judges 6:21
- Leviticus 8:1-3
- Luke 22:1

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H4682, G01060

(Go back to: [Exodus 12 General Notes](#); [12:8](#); [12:15](#); [12:17](#); [12:18](#); [12:20](#); [12:39](#); [13:6](#); [13:7](#); [23:15](#); [29:2](#); [29:23](#); [34:18](#))

veil, veiled, unveiled

Definition:

The term “veil” usually refers to a thin piece of cloth that is used as a head covering, to cover the head or face so that it cannot be seen.

- Moses covered his face with a veil after he had been in the presence of Yahweh, so that the brightness of his face would be hidden from the people.
- In the Bible, women wore a veil to cover their head, and often their face as well, when they were in public or in the presence of men.
- The verb to “veil” means to cover something with a veil.
- In some English versions, the word “veil” is used to refer to the thick curtain that covered the entrance into the most holy place. But “curtain” is a better term in that context, since it refers to a heavy, thick piece of cloth.

Translation Suggestions

- The term “veil” could also be translated as “thin cloth covering” or “cloth covering” or “head covering.”
- In some cultures, there may already be a term for a veil for women. It may be necessary to find a different word when it is used for Moses.

(See also: [Moses](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Corinthians 3:12-13
- 2 Corinthians 3:16
- Ezekiel 13:18
- Isaiah 47:1-2
- Song of Songs 4:3

Word Data:

- Strong's: H4304, H4533, H4555, H6777, H6809, H7196, H7479, G03430, G25710, G25720

(Go back to: [Exodus 34:33](#))

vineyard

Definition:

A vineyard is a large garden area where grapevines are grown and grapes are cultivated.

- A vineyard often has a wall around it to protect the fruit from thieves and animals.
- God compared the people of Israel to a vineyard that did not bear good fruit. (See: [Metaphor](#))
- Vineyard could be also translated as “grapevine garden” or “grape plantation.”

(See also: [grape](#), [Israel](#), [vine](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 9:20-21
- Luke 13:6
- Luke 20:15
- Matthew 20:2
- Matthew 21:40-41

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1612, H3754, H3755, H8284, G02900

(Go back to: [Exodus 22:5](#); [23:11](#))

virgin, virginity

Definition:

A virgin is a woman who has never had sexual relations.

- The prophet Isaiah said that the Messiah would be born from a virgin.
- Mary was a virgin when she was pregnant with Jesus. He did not have a human father.
- Some languages may have a term that is a polite way of referring to a virgin. (See: [Euphemism](#))

(See also: Christ, Isaiah, Jesus, Mary)

Bible References:

- Genesis 24:15-16
- Luke 1:27
- Luke 1:35
- Matthew 1:23
- Matthew 25:2

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **21:9** The prophet Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be born from a **virgin**.
- **22:4** She (Mary) was a **virgin** and was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph.
- **22:5** Mary replied, "How can this be, since I am a **virgin**?"
- **49:1** An angel told a **virgin** named Mary that she would give birth to God's Son. So while she was still a **virgin**, she gave birth to a son and named him Jesus.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1330, H1331, G39320, G39330

(Go back to: [Exodus 22:16](#); [22:17](#))

voice

Definition:

The term “voice” refers to audible sound that a person makes when speaking or communicating. In the Bible, the term can be used figuratively to refer to the concepts of sound, communication, and/or obedience.

Translation Suggestions

- The expression “to hear someone’s voice” can mean either “to hear someone speaking” or “to heed what someone says.”
- The Bible describes God as “speaking” and having a “voice,” even though God doesn’t have a physical body in the same way a human being does.
- The term “voice” sometimes implies the presence of a person, as in this statement: “A voice is heard in the desert saying, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord.’” This could be translated as “A person is heard calling out in the desert...” (See: [synecdoche](#))
- However, sometimes the word “voice” is used for objects that cannot literally speak, such as when David exclaims in the psalms that the heavens have a “voice” that reaches the whole earth. This means that the objects in the sky communicate something to human beings about God the Creator. (See: [metaphor](#))

(See also: [call](#), [proclaim](#), [splendor](#).)

Bible References:

- John 5:36-38
- Luke 1:42
- Luke 9:35
- Matthew 3:17
- Matthew 12:19

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H6963, H7032, H7445, H8193, G29060, G54560

(Go back to: [Exodus 3:18](#); [4:1](#); [4:8](#); [4:9](#); [5:2](#); [15:26](#); [18:19](#); [18:24](#); [19:5](#); [19:19](#); [23:21](#); [23:22](#); [24:3](#))

walk, walked

Definition:

The term “walk” is often used in a figurative sense to mean “live.”

- “Enoch walked with God” means that Enoch lived in a close relationship with God.
- To “walk by the Spirit” means to be guided by the Holy Spirit so that we do things that please and honor God.
- To “walk in” God’s commands or God’s ways means to “live in obedience to” his commands, that is, to “obey his commands” or “do his will.”
- When God says he will “walk among” his people, it means that he is living among them or closely interacting with them.
- To “walk contrary to” means to live or behave in a way that is against something or someone.
- To “walk after” means to seek or pursue someone or something. It can also mean to act in the same way as someone else.

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate “walk” literally, as long as the correct meaning will be understood.
- Otherwise, figurative uses of “walk” could also be translated by “live” or “act” or “behave.”
- The phrase “walk by the Spirit” could be translated by, “live in obedience to the Holy Spirit” or “behave in a way that is pleasing to the Holy Spirit” or “do things that are pleasing to God as the Holy Spirit guides you.”
- To “walk in God’s commands” could be translated by “live by God’s commands” or “obey God’s commands.”
- The phrase “walked with God” could be translated as “lived in close relationship with God by obeying and honoring him.”

(See also: Holy Spirit, [honor](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 1:7
- 1 Kings 2:4
- Colossians 2:7
- Galatians 5:25
- Genesis 17:1
- Isaiah 2:5
- Jeremiah 13:10
- Micah 4:2

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H1869, H1980, H1981, H3212, H4108, G17040, G40430, G41980, G47480

(Go back to: [Exodus 2:8](#); [14:29](#); [15:19](#); [16:4](#); [18:20](#))

watch, guard, keep, take heed, beware

Definition:

The term “watch” means to look at something very closely and carefully. It also has several figurative meanings. A “watchman” was someone whose job was to guard a city by looking carefully all around him for any danger or threat to the people in the city.

- The command to “watch your life and doctrine closely” means to be careful to live wisely and to not believe false teachings.
- To “watch out” is a warning to be careful to avoid a danger or harmful influence.
- To “watch” or “keep watch” means to always be alert and on guard against sin and evil. It can also mean to “be ready.”
- To “keep watch over” or “keep close watch” can mean to guard, protect or take care of someone or something.
- Other ways of translating “watch” could include “pay close attention to” or “be diligent” or “be very careful” or “be on guard.”
- Other words for “watchman” are “sentry” or “guard.”

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:6
- Hebrews 13:17
- Jeremiah 31:4-6
- Mark 8:15
- Mark 13:33-34
- Matthew 25:10-13

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0821, H2370, H4929, H4931, H5027, H5341, H6486, H6822, H6836, H6974, H7462, H7789, H7919, H8104, H8108, H8245, G00690, G09910, G11270, G14920, G23340, G28920, G35250, G37080, G39060, G43370, G46480, G50830, G54380

(Go back to: [Exodus 10:28](#); [19:12](#); [21:29](#); [21:36](#); [23:13](#); [23:21](#); [34:11](#); [34:12](#))

water, deep

Definition:

In addition to its primary meaning, “water” also often refers to a body of water, such as an ocean, sea, lake, or river.

- The term “waters” refers to bodies of water or many sources of water. It can also be a general reference for a large amount of water.
- A figurative use of “waters” refers to great distress, difficulties, and suffering. For example, God promises that when we “go through the waters” he will be with us.
- The phrase “many waters” emphasizes how great the difficulties are.
- To “water” livestock and other animals means to “provide water for” them. In Bible times, this usually involved drawing water from a well with a bucket and pouring the water into a trough or other container for the animals to drink from.
- The “deep” refers to a deep body of water, such as the watery depths at the beginning of creation or bodies of water that extend deep under the earth’s surface such as oceans, seas, etc.
- In the Old Testament, God is referred to as the spring or fountain of “living waters” for his people. This means he is the source of spiritual power and refreshment.
- In the New Testament, Jesus used the phrase “living water” to refer to the Holy Spirit working in a person to transform and bring new life.

Translation Suggestions:

- The phrase, “draw water” could be translated as “pull water up from a well with a bucket.”
- “Streams of living water will flow from them” could be translated as “the power and blessings from the Holy Spirit will flow out of them like streams of water.” Instead of “blessings” the term “gifts” or “fruits” or “godly character” could be used.
- When Jesus is talking to the Samaritan woman at the well, the phrase “living water” could be translated as “water that gives life” or “lifegiving water.” In this context, the imagery of water must be kept in the translation.
- Depending on the context, the term “waters” or “many waters” could be translated as “great suffering (that surrounds you like water)” or “overwhelming difficulties (like a flood of water)” or “large amounts of water.”

(See also: [life](#), [spirit](#), Holy Spirit, [power](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 8:36-38
- Exodus 14:21
- John 4:10
- John 4:14
- John 4:15
- Matthew 14:28-30

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2222, H4325, H4529, H4857, H7301, H7783, H8248, H8415, G05040, G42150, G42220, G52020, G52040

(Go back to: Exodus 2:10; 4:9; 7:15; 7:17; 7:18; 7:19; 7:20; 7:21; 7:24; 8:6; 8:20; 12:9; 14:21; 14:22; 14:26; 14:28; 14:29; 15:5; 15:8; 15:10; 15:19; 15:22; 15:23; 15:25; 15:27; 17:1; 17:2; 17:3; 17:6; 20:4; 23:25; 29:4; 30:18; 30:20; 32:20; 34:28; 40:7)

wheat

Definition:

Wheat is a type of grain that people grow for food. When the Bible mentions “grain” or “seeds,” it is often talking about wheat grain or seeds.

- The wheat seeds or grains grow at the top of the wheat plant.
- After harvesting the wheat, the grain is separated from the stalk of the plant by threshing it. The stalk of the wheat plant is also called “straw” and is often placed on the ground for animals to sleep on.
- After threshing, the chaff surrounding the grain seed is separated from the grain by winnowing and is thrown away.
- People grind the wheat grain into flour, and use this for making bread.

(See also: [barley](#), chaff, grain, [seed](#), thresh, winnow)

Bible References:

- Acts 27:36-38
- Exodus 34:21-22
- John 12:24
- Luke 3:17
- Matthew 3:12
- Matthew 13:26

Word Data:

- Strong's: H1250, H2406, G46210

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:32](#); [29:2](#); [34:22](#))

wine, wineskin, new wine

Definition:

In the Bible, the term “wine” refers to a kind of fermented drink made from the juice of a fruit called grapes. Wine was stored in “wineskins,” which were containers made out of animal skin.

- The term “new wine” referred to grape juice that had just been taken from the grape and was not fermented yet. Sometimes the term “wine” also referred to unfermented grape juice.
- To make wine, grapes are crushed in a winepress so that the juice comes out. The juice eventually ferments and alcohol forms in it.
- In Bible times, wine was the normal drink with meals. It did not have as much alcohol as present-day wine has.
- Before wine was served for a meal, it was often mixed with water.
- A wineskin that was old and brittle would get cracks in it, which allowed the wine to leak out. New wineskins were soft and flexible, which meant they did not tear easily and could store the wine safely.
- If wine is unknown in your culture, it could be translated as “fermented grape juice” or “fermented drink made from a fruit called grapes” or “fermented fruit juice.” (See: [How to Translate Unknowns](#))
- Ways to translate “wineskin” could include “bag for wine” or “animal skin wine bag” or “animal skin container for wine.”

(See also: grape, vine, [vineyard](#), winepress)

Bible References:

- 1 Timothy 5:23
- Genesis 9:21
- Genesis 49:12
- John 2:3-5
- John 2:10
- Matthew 9:17
- Matthew 11:18

smashed

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2561, H2562, H3196, H4469, H4997, H5435, H6025, H6071, H8492, G10980, G36310, G38200, G39430

(Go back to: [Exodus 29:40](#))

wise men, advisor

Definition:

The term “wise men” simply means people who are wise. In the Bible, however, the term “wise men” often refers to men with unusual knowledge and abilities who served in a king’s royal court as advisors to the king or other high officials.

Old Testament

- Sometimes the term “wise men” is explained in the text as “prudent men” or “men with understanding.” This refers to men who act wisely and righteously because they obey God.
- The “wise men” who served pharaohs or other kings were often scholars who studied the stars, especially looking for special meanings for the patterns that the stars made in their positions in the sky. Sometimes “wise men” also practiced divination of performed acts of magic, probably by the power of evil spirits.
- Often wise men were expected to explain the meanings of dreams. For example, King Nebuchadnezzar demanded that his wise men describe his dreams and tell him what they meant, but none of them was able to do this, except Daniel who had received this knowledge from God.

New Testament

- The group of men who came from eastern regions to worship Jesus were called “magi,” which is often translated as “wise men,” since this probably refers to scholars who served a ruler of an eastern country.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term “wise men” could be translated using the term “wise” or with a phrase such as “gifted men” or “educated men” or some other term that refers to men who have an important job working for a ruler.
- When the term “wise men” simply means people who are wise, the word “wise” should be translated in the same or similar way to how it is translated elsewhere in the Bible.

(See also: Babylon, Daniel, divination, [magic](#), Nebuchadnezzar, [ruler](#), [wise](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Chronicles 27:32-34
- Daniel 2:1-2
- Daniel 2:10-11

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2445, H2450, H3778, H3779, G46800

(Go back to: [Exodus 7:11](#); [31:6](#))

wise, wisdom

Definition:

The term “wise” describes someone who understands what is the right and moral thing to do and then does that. “Wisdom” is the understanding and practice of what is true and morally right.

- Being wise includes the ability to make good decisions, especially choosing to do what pleases God.
- People become wise by listening to God and humbly obeying his will.
- A wise person will show the fruits of the Holy Spirit in his life, such as joy, kindness, love, and patience.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, other ways to translate “wise” could include “obedient to God” or “sensible and obedient” or “God-fearing.”
- “Wisdom” could be translated by a word or phrase that means “wise living” or “sensible and obedient living” or “good judgment.”
- It is best to translate “wise” and “wisdom” in such a way that they are different terms from other key terms like righteous or obedient.

(See also: [obey](#), [fruit](#))

Bible References:

- Acts 6:3
- Colossians 3:15-17
- Exodus 31:6
- Genesis 3:6
- Isaiah 19:12
- Jeremiah 18:18
- Matthew 7:24

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **2:5** She also wanted to be **wise**, so she picked some of the fruit and ate it.
- **18:1** When Solomon asked for **wisdom**, God was pleased and made him the **wisest** man in the world.
- **23:9** Some time later, **wise** men from countries far to the east saw an unusual star in the sky.
- **45:1** He (Stephen) had a good reputation and was full of the Holy Spirit and of **wisdom**.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0998, H1350, H2445, H2449, H2450, H2451, H2452, H2454, H2942, H3820, H3823, H6195, H6493, H6912, H7535, H7919, H7922, H8454, G46780, G46790, G46800, G49200, G54280, G54290, G54300

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:10](#); [28:3](#); [35:10](#); [35:25](#); [36:1](#); [36:2](#); [36:4](#); [36:8](#))

womb

Definition:

The term “womb” refers to where a baby grows inside its mother.

- This is an older term that is sometimes used in order to be polite and less direct. (See: [euphemism](#))
- A more modern term for womb is “uterus.”
- Some languages use a word like “belly” to refer to a woman’s womb or uterus.
- Use a word for this in the project language that is well-known, natural, and acceptable.

Bible References:

- Genesis 25:23
- Genesis 25:24-26
- Genesis 38:27-28
- Genesis 49:25
- Luke 2:21
- Luke 11:27
- Luke 23:29
- Matthew 19:12

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H0990, H4578, H7356, H7358, G10640, G28360, G33880

(Go back to: [Exodus 13:2](#); [13:12](#); [34:19](#))

word of God, word of Yahweh, word of the Lord, word of truth, scripture

Definition:

In the Bible, the term “word of God” refers to anything that God has communicated to people. This includes spoken and written messages. Jesus is also called “the Word of God.”

- The term “scriptures” means “writings.” It is only used in the New Testament and refers to the Hebrew scriptures, which is the Old Testament. These writings were God’s message that he had told people to write down so that many years in the future people could still read it.
- The related terms “word of Yahweh” and “word of the Lord” often refer to a specific message from God that was given to a prophet or other person in the Bible.
- Sometimes this term occurs as simply “the word” or “my word” or “your word” (when talking about God’s word).
- In the New Testament, Jesus is called “the Word” and “the Word of God.” These titles mean that Jesus fully reveals who God is, because he is God himself.

The term “word of truth” is another way of referring to “God’s word,” which is his message or teaching. It does not refer to just one word.

- God’s word of truth includes everything that God has taught people about himself, his creation, and his plan of salvation through Jesus.
- This term emphasizes the fact that what God has told us is true, faithful, and real.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, other ways to translate this term could include “the message of Yahweh” or “God’s message” or “the teachings from God.”
- It may be more natural in some languages to make this term plural and say “God’s words” or “the words of Yahweh.”
- The expression “the word of Yahweh came” is often used to introduce something that God told his prophets or his people. This could be translated as “Yahweh spoke this message” or “Yahweh spoke these words.”
- The term “scripture” or “scriptures” could be translated as “the writings” or “the written message from God.” This term should be translated differently from the translation of the term “word.”
- When “word” occurs alone and it refers to God’s word, it could be translated as “the message” or “God’s word” or “the teachings.” Also consider the alternate translations suggested above.
- When the Bible refers to Jesus as “the Word,” this term could be translated as “the Message” or “the Truth.”
- “Word of truth” could be translated as “God’s true message” or “God’s word, which is true.”
- It is important for the translation of this term to include the meaning of being true.

(See also: [prophet](#), [true](#), [Yahweh](#))

Bible References:

- Genesis 15:1
- 1 Kings 13:1
- Jeremiah 36:1-3
- Luke 8:11
- John 5:39
- Acts 6:2
- Acts 12:24
- Romans 1:2
- 2 Corinthians 6:7

- Ephesians 1:13
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- James 1:18
- James 2:8-9

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **25:7** In **God's word** he commands his people, "Worship only the Lord your God and only serve him."
- **33:6** So Jesus explained, "The seed is the **word of God.**"
- **42:3** Then Jesus explained to them what **God's word** says about the Messiah.
- **42:7** Jesus said, "I told you that everything written about me in **God's word** must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds so they could understand **God's word.**
- **45:10** Philip also used other **scriptures** to tell him the good news of Jesus.
- **48:12** But Jesus is the greatest prophet of all. He is the **Word of God.**
- **49:18** God tells you to pray, to study his **word**, to worship him with other Christians, and to tell others what he has done for you.

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0561, H0565, H1697, H3068, G30560, G44870

(Go back to: [Exodus 9:20](#); [9:21](#); [24:3](#); [24:4](#))

work, works, deeds

Definition:

The term “work” refers generally either to the action of expending effort in order to accomplish something, or to the result of that action. The term “works” refers generally to actions as a whole (that is, things that have been done or that need to be done).

- In the Bible, these terms are commonly used both in reference to God and humans.
- When used in reference to God, the term “work” in the Bible often refers to God’s action of creating the universe or saving his people (either from enemies, from sin, or both).
- God’s works refer to all the things he does or has done, including creating the world, saving sinners, providing for the needs of all creation and keeping the entire universe in place.
- The works or deeds that a person does can be either good or evil.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate “works” could be “deeds” or “actions” or “things that are done.”
- God’s “works” or “deeds” or the “work of his hands” could also be translated as “miracles” or “mighty acts” or “things that God does.”
- The expression “the work of God” could be translated as “the things that God is doing” or “the miracles God does” or “everything that God has accomplished.”
- The term “work” can just be the singular of “works” as in “every good work” or “every good deed.”
- When work is done for God or others, it can be translated as “service” or “ministry.”

(See also: [fruit](#), Holy Spirit, [miracle](#))

Bible References:

- 1 John 3:12
- Acts 2:8-11
- Daniel 4:37
- Exodus 34:10-11
- Galatians 2:15-16
- James 2:17
- Matthew 16:27-28
- Micah 2:7
- Romans 3:28
- Titus 3:4-5

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H4399, H4566, H4567, H4611, H4659, H5949, G20410

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:11](#); [1:14](#); [12:16](#); [35:2](#); [35:35](#); [36:2](#))

wrath, fury

Definition:

Wrath is an intense anger that is sometimes long-lasting. The Bible describes both people and God as experiencing intense anger. When speaking about God's "wrath," make sure the word or phrase used to translate this term does not refer to a sinful fit of rage (which might be true of a human person).

- In the Bible, "wrath" often refers to God's righteous judgment of sin and punishment of people who rebel against him.
- The "wrath of God" can also refer to his judgment and punishment for sin.
- God's wrath is the righteous penalty for those who do not repent of their sin.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, other ways this term could be translated include "intense anger" or "righteous judgment" or "anger."
- God's wrath is just and holy. When talking about God's wrath, make sure the word or phrase used to translate this term does not refer to a sinful human rage.

(See also: [judge](#), [sin](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10
- 1 Timothy 2:8-10
- Luke 3:7
- Luke 21:23
- Matthew 3:7
- Revelation 14:10
- Romans 1:18
- Romans 5:9

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0639, H2197, H2528, H2534, H2740, H3707, H3708, H5678, H7107, H7109, H7110, H7265, H7267, G23720, G37090, G39490, G39500

(Go back to: [Exodus 16:20](#))

wrong, wronged, wrongdoer, mistreat, hurt, hurtful

Definition:

To “wrong” someone means to treat that person unjustly and dishonestly.

- The term “mistreat” means to act badly or roughly toward someone, causing physical or emotional harm to that person.
- The term “hurt” is more general and means to “cause someone harm in some way.” It often has the meaning of “physically injure.”
- Depending on the context, these terms could also be translated as “do wrong to” or “treat unjustly” or “cause harm to” or “treat in a harmful way” or “injure.”

Bible References:

- Acts 7:26
- Exodus 22:21
- Genesis 16:5
- Luke 6:28
- Matthew 20:13-14
- Psalms 71:13

Word Data:

- Strong's: H0205, H0816, H2248, H2250, H2255, H2257, H2398, H2554, H2555, H3238, H3637, H4834, H5062, H5142, H5230, H5627, H5753, H5766, H5791, H5792, H5916, H6031, H6087, H6127, H6231, H6485, H6565, H6586, H7451, H7489, H7563, H7665, H7667, H7686, H8133, H8267, H8295, G00910, G00920, G00930, G00950, G02640, G08240, G09830, G09840, G15360, G16260, G16510, G17270, G19080, G25560, G25580, G25590, G26070, G30760, G30770, G37620, G41220, G51950, G51960

(Go back to: [Exodus 22:21](#))

Yahweh

Facts:

The term “Yahweh” is God’s personal name in the Old Testament. The specific origin of this name is unknown, but it is probably derived from the Hebrew verb meaning, “to be.”

- Following tradition, many Bible versions use the term “LORD” or “the LORD” to represent “Yahweh.” This tradition resulted from the fact that historically, the Jewish people became afraid of mispronouncing Yahweh’s name and started saying “Lord” every time the term “Yahweh” appeared in the text. Modern Bibles write “LORD” with all capital letters to show respect for God’s personal name and to distinguish it from “Lord” which is a different Hebrew word.
- The ULT and UST texts always translate this term as, “Yahweh,” in agreement with the Hebrew text of the Old Testament.
- The term “Yahweh” never occurs in the original text of the New Testament; only the Greek term for “Lord” is used, even when quoting the Old Testament.
- In the Old Testament, when God spoke about himself, he would often use his name instead of a pronoun.

Translation Suggestions:

- “Yahweh” could be translated by a word or phrase that means “I am” or “living one” or “the one who is” or “he who is alive.”
- This term could also be written in a way that is similar to how “Yahweh” is spelled.
- Some church denominations prefer not to use the term “Yahweh” and instead use the traditional rendering, “LORD.” An important consideration is that this may be confusing when read aloud because it will sound the same as the title “Lord.” Some languages may have an affix or other grammatical marker that could be added to distinguish “LORD” as a name (Yahweh) from “Lord” as a title.
- It is best if possible to keep the name Yahweh where it literally occurs in the text, but some translations may decide to use only a pronoun in some places, to make the text more natural and clear.
- Introduce the quote with something like, “This is what Yahweh says.”

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: [God](#), [Lord](#))

Bible References:

- 1 Kings 21:20
- 1 Samuel 16:7
- Daniel 9:3
- Ezekiel 17:24
- Genesis 2:4
- Genesis 4:3-5
- Genesis 28:13
- Hosea 11:12
- Isaiah 10:4
- Isaiah 38:8
- Job 12:10
- Joshua 1:9
- Lamentations 1:5
- Leviticus 25:35
- Malachi 3:4
- Micah 2:5

- Micah 6:5
- Numbers 8:11
- Psalm 124:3
- Ruth 1:21
- Zechariah 14:5

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **9:14** God said, "I AM WHO I AM. Tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you.' Also tell them, 'I am **Yahweh**, the God of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is my name forever.'"
- **13:4** Then God gave them the covenant and said, "I am **Yahweh**, your God, who saved you from slavery in Egypt. Do not worship other gods."
- **13:5** "Do not make idols or worship them, for I, **Yahweh**, am a jealous God."
- **16:1** The Israelites began to worship the Canaanite gods instead of **Yahweh**, the true God.
- **19:10** Then Elijah prayed, "O **Yahweh**, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, show us today that you are the God of Israel and that I am your servant."

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3050, H3068, H3069

(Go back to: Exodus 3 General Notes; 3:2; 3:4; 3:7; 3:15; 3:16; 3:18; 4:1; 4:2; 4:4; 4:5; 4:6; 4:10; 4:11; 4:14; 4:19; 4:21; 4:22; 4:24; 4:27; 4:28; 4:30; 4:31; 5:1; 5:2; 5:3; 5:17; 5:21; 5:22; 6:1; 6:3; 6:10; 6:12; 6:13; 6:26; 6:28; 6:29; 6:30; 7:1; 7:6; 7:8; 7:10; 7:13; 7:14; 7:16; 7:17; 7:19; 7:20; 7:22; 7:25; 8:1; 8:5; 8:8; 8:10; 8:12; 8:13; 8:15; 8:16; 8:19; 8:20; 8:24; 8:26; 8:27; 8:28; 8:29; 8:30; 8:31; 9:1; 9:3; 9:4; 9:5; 9:6; 9:8; 9:12; 9:13; 9:22; 9:23; 9:27; 9:28; 9:29; 9:30; 9:33; 9:35; 10:1; 10:3; 10:7; 10:8; 10:9; 10:10; 10:11; 10:12; 10:13; 10:16; 10:17; 10:18; 10:19; 10:20; 10:21; 10:24; 10:25; 10:26; 10:27; 11:1; 11:3; 11:4; 11:7; 11:9; 11:10; 12:1; 12:11; 12:14; 12:23; 12:25; 12:27; 12:28; 12:29; 12:31; 12:36; 12:41; 12:42; 12:43; 12:48; 12:50; 12:51; 13:1; 13:3; 13:5; 13:6; 13:8; 13:9; 13:11; 13:12; 13:14; 13:15; 13:16; 13:21; 14:1; 14:8; 14:10; 14:13; 14:14; 14:15; 14:21; 14:24; 14:25; 14:26; 14:27; 14:30; 14:31; 15:1; 15:2; 15:3; 15:6; 15:11; 15:16; 15:17; 15:18; 15:19; 15:21; 15:25; 15:26; 16:3; 16:4; 16:6; 16:7; 16:8; 16:9; 16:10; 16:11; 16:15; 16:16; 16:23; 16:25; 16:28; 16:29; 16:32; 16:33; 16:34; 17:1; 17:2; 17:4; 17:5; 17:7; 17:14; 17:15; 17:16; 18:1; 18:8; 18:9; 18:10; 18:11; 19:3; 19:7; 19:8; 19:9; 19:10; 19:11; 19:18; 19:20; 19:21; 19:22; 19:23; 19:24; 20:7; 20:10; 20:11; 20:12; 20:22; 22:11; 22:20; 23:17; 23:19; 23:25; 24:1; 24:2; 24:3; 24:5; 24:7; 24:8; 24:12; 24:16; 24:17; 25:1; 27:21; 28:12; 28:29; 28:30; 28:35; 28:36; 28:38; 29:11; 29:18; 29:23; 29:24; 29:25; 29:26; 29:28; 29:41; 29:42; 30:8; 30:10; 30:11; 30:12; 30:13; 30:14; 30:15; 30:16; 30:17; 30:20; 30:22; 30:34; 30:37; 31:1; 31:12; 31:15; 31:17; 32:5; 32:7; 32:9; 32:11; 32:14; 32:26; 32:27; 32:29; 32:30; 32:31; 32:33; 32:35; 33:1; 33:5; 33:7; 33:11; 33:12; 33:17; 33:19; 33:21; 34:1; 34:4; 34:5; 34:6; 34:10; 34:14; 34:23; 34:24; 34:26; 34:27; 34:28; 34:32; 34:34; 35:1; 35:2; 35:4; 35:5; 35:10; 35:21; 35:22; 35:24; 35:29; 35:30; 36:1; 36:2; 36:5; 38:22; 39:1; 39:5; 39:7; 39:21; 39:26; 39:29; 39:30; 39:31; 39:32; 39:42; 39:43; 40:1; 40:16; 40:19; 40:21; 40:23; 40:25; 40:27; 40:29; 40:32; 40:34; 40:35; 40:38)

year

Definition:

When used literally, the term “year” in the Bible refers to a period of time lasting 354 days. This is according to the lunar calendar system which is based on the time it takes for the moon to go around the earth.

- A year in the modern-day solar calendar lasts 365 days divided into twelve months, based on the amount of time it takes for the earth to travel around the sun.
- In both calendar systems a year has twelve months. But an extra thirteenth month is sometimes added to the year in the lunar calendar to make up for the fact that a lunar year is eleven days less than a solar year. This helps keep the two calendars more in line with each other.
- In the Bible, the term “year” is also used in a figurative sense to refer to a general time when a special event takes place. Examples of this include, “the year of Yahweh” or “in the year of drought” or “the favorable year of the Lord.” In these contexts, “year” could be translated as “time” or “season” or “time period.”

(See also: [month](#))

Bible References:

- 2 Kings 23:31
- Acts 19:8-10
- Daniel 8:1
- Exodus 12:2

Word Data:

- Strong's: H3117, H7620, H7657, H8140, H8141, G17630, G20940

(Go back to: [Exodus 6:16](#); [6:18](#); [6:20](#); [12:2](#); [12:5](#); [12:40](#); [12:41](#); [23:16](#); [23:29](#); [29:38](#); [30:10](#); [34:22](#); [34:24](#))

yeast, leaven, unleavened

Definition:

“Leaven” is a general term for a substance that causes bread dough to expand and rise. “Yeast” is a specific kind of leaven.

- In some English translations, the word for leaven is translated as “yeast,” which is a modern leavening agent that fills the bread dough with gas bubbles, making the dough expand before baking it. The yeast is kneaded into the dough so that it spreads throughout the entire lump of dough.
- In Old Testament times, the leavening or rising agent was produced by allowing the dough to sit for awhile. Small amounts of dough from a previous batch of dough were saved as leavening for the next batch.
- When the Israelites escaped from Egypt, they didn’t have time to wait for bread dough to rise, so they made bread without leaven to take with them on their journey. As a reminder of this, every year the Jewish people celebrate Passover by eating bread that has no leaven in it.
- The term “leaven” or “yeast” is used figuratively in the Bible as a picture of how sin spreads through a person’s life or how sin can influence other people.
- It can also refer to false teaching which often spreads to many people and influences them.
- The term “leaven” is also used in a positive way to explain how the influence of God’s kingdom spreads from person to person.

Translation Suggestions

- This could be translated as “leaven” or “substance that causes dough to rise” or “expanding agent.” The word “rise” could be expressed as “expand” or “get bigger” or “puff up.”
- If a local leavening agent is used for making bread dough rise, that term can be used. If the language has a well-known, general term that means “leavening,” this would be the best term to use.

(See also: [Egypt](#), [Passover](#), [unleavened bread](#))

Bible References:

- Exodus 12:8
- Galatians 5:9-10
- Luke 12:1
- Luke 13:21
- Matthew 13:33
- Matthew 16:8

Word Data:

- Strong’s: H2556, H2557, H4682, H7603, G01060, G22190, G22200

(Go back to: [Exodus 12:19](#); [12:20](#); [12:34](#); [12:39](#); [13:3](#); [13:7](#); [34:25](#))

Zebulun

Facts:

Zebulun was Jacob's tenth son. He was Leah's sixth son. His descendants became one of the tribes of Israel.

- The tribe descended from him was known as the "tribe of Zebulun" or "Zebulun."
- The meaning of the name Zebulun is unknown, but it is similar to a Hebrew word probably meaning "to honor" or "to dwell."
- The tribe of Zebulun settled in northwest Canaan, bordered by the lands of Naphtali, Issachar, Manasseh, and Asher.

(Translation suggestions: [How to Translate Names](#))

(See also: twelve tribes of Israel, [Jacob](#), Leah)

Bible References:

- Exodus 1:1-5
- Genesis 30:20
- Isaiah 9:1
- Judges 4:10
- Matthew 4:13
- Matthew 4:16

Word Data:

- Strong's: H2074, H2075, G21940

(Go back to: [Exodus 1:3](#))

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