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Goodbye,  
Lord

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“The Bible is the model for and subject of more art and thought than those of us who live within its influence, consciously or unconsciously, will ever know.”

Marilynne Robinson, *The New York Times*, December 22, 2011

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## Torah (Teachings)

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

## Nevi'im (Prophets)

### Former Prophets

Joshua  
Judges  
Samuel (1 and 2)  
Kings (1 and 2)

### Latter Prophets

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Ezekiel

### The Twelve

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

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## Ketuvim (Writings)

Psalms  
Proverbs  
Job

### Five Scrolls

Song of Songs  
Ruth  
Lamentations  
Ecclesiastes  
Esther

Daniel  
Ezra-Nehemiah  
Chronicles (1 and 2)

# What are some characteristics of a Jewish TANAKH translation?

- It is circumscribed and unified by the canon of authoritative texts the Rabbis formally accepted around the 2nd century CE
- The Hebrew used is the Masoretic Text. All variants appear as notes but not in the text itself.
- Heavy if not exclusive reliance on the scholarship of Jewish scholars and commentators for its interpretation of the Hebrew text.
- Translation is published to serve as an accompaniment to the Hebrew.

Features could include:

- Hebrew and English are printed side by side
- Sections are designed with some Hebrew titling and according to weekly liturgical portions
- The page numbering proceeds from right to left

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# LANGUAGES OF MAJOR JEWISH BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

Aramaic

Greek

Arabic

Spanish

Yiddish

German

Hungarian

French

Russian

Italian

English

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from the MLA Executive Council Statement on Evaluating Translations as  
Scholarship: Guidelines for Peer Review (2011)

“Every translation is an interpretation; each one begins  
with a critical reading, then expands and ultimately  
embodies that reading.”

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from the Preface, *JPS TANAKH: Gender-Sensitive Edition*

**“Whether the Bible’s composers intended to depict a Deity whose persona is beyond society’s gender categories is a matter of longstanding debate in academic circles.”**

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from the Preface, *JPS TANAKH: Gender-Sensitive Edition*

This revised edition seeks to restore the ability of NJPS to provide an accurate picture of how gender is handled in the Bible—the original text’s presuppositions, ascriptions, and prescriptions. It introduces a wide range of changes in labels and pronouns both for people and for God, and in related areas.

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# The Tetragrammaton

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# Legends of the Name and Its Power

Judah ha-Nasi claimed that King David had been saved in a battle thanks to the Name. According to the story, King David's nephew Abishai pronounced the Name, whereupon the king was momentarily levitated above the battleground. When the danger passed, Abishai pronounced the Name again, and David was safely returned to Earth. (Talmud, *Sanhedrin* 95a)

According to Rava [head of the Pumbedita academy], the prophet Isaiah uttered the Name and was thereupon swallowed by a cedar tree. (Talmud, *Yevamot* 49b)

Rava himself . . . knew the Name and used it to create a human being, which he sent to his friend Rav Zera. (Talmud, *Sanhedrin* 65b)

The Egyptian man the Torah describes beating a Hebrew man (Exodus 2:1) died when Moses did no more than utter the Name. (*Shemot Rabbah*)

*The Name*, Mark Sameth (Wipf & Stock, 2020)

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# lord

*noun* \ 'lɔrd \

**1:** one having power and authority over others

**a:** a ruler by hereditary right or preeminence to whom service and obedience are due : [governor](#), [prince](#), [sovereign](#)

**b :** one of whom a fee or estate is held in feudal tenure : the proprietor of feudal land

**c :** a proprietor or owner of land or houses

**d** *obsolete* : the male head of a household : a master of servants

**e:** [husband](#)

**f:** one that has achieved mastery by virtue of superior strength or conquest

**g:** a man who exercises leadership or great power in a particular business or occupation

**2:** *or* **Lord**

**a:** [god](#)

**b:** [christ](#)

**3:** **a man of rank or high position**

“Lord.” *Merriam-Webster's Unabridged Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://unabridged.merriam-webster.com/unabridged/lord>. Accessed 28 Feb. 2023.

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# Exodus 15:21

## Jewish Publication Society 1985

20 Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her in dance with timbrels.

21 And Miriam chanted for them:

Sing to the LORD, for He has triumphed gloriously;

Horse and driver He has hurled into the sea.

## Jewish Publication Society 2023

20 Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, picked up a hand-drum, and all the women went out after her in dance with hand-drums.

21 And Miriam chanted for them:

Sing to GOD, who has triumphed gloriously;

Horse and driver have been hurled into the sea.

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# Deuteronomy 11:13

## Jewish Publication Society 1985

If, then, you obey the commandments that  
I enjoin upon you this day, loving the Lord  
your God and serving Him with all your  
heart and soul...

## Jewish Publication Society 2023

If, then, you obey the commandments that  
I enjoin upon you this day, loving the  
Eternal your God and rendering service  
with all your heart and soul...

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# Isaiah 2:4

## Jewish Publication Society 1985

Thus He will judge among the nations  
And arbitrate for the many peoples,  
And they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
And their spears into pruning hooks:  
Nation shall not take up  
Sword against nation;  
They shall never again know war.

## Jewish Publication Society 2023

Thus [God] will judge among the nations  
And arbitrate for the many peoples,  
And they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
And their spears into pruning hooks:  
Nation shall not take up  
Sword against nation;  
They shall never again know war.

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## Isaiah 6:1-3

### Jewish Publication Society 1985

In the year that King Uzziah died, I beheld my Lord seated on a high and lofty throne; and the skirts of His robe filled the Temple. Seraphs stood in attendance on Him. Each of them had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his legs, and with two he would fly. And one would call to the other, “Holy, holy, holy! The LORD of Hosts! His presence fills all the earth!”

### Jewish Publication Society 2023

In the year that King Uzziah died, I beheld my Sovereign seated on a high and lofty throne; and the skirts of God's robe filled the Temple. Seraphs stood in attendance, each with six wings—two covering the face, two covering the body, and two to fly with. And one would call to the other “Holy, holy, holy! GOD of Hosts— Whose presence fills all the earth!”

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# Proverbs 31:10

**Jewish Publication Society 1985**

What a rare find is a capable wife! Her worth is far beyond that of rubies.

**Jewish Publication Society 2023**

How precious is a woman of substance! Her worth is far beyond that of rubies.

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# I Kings 5:5

## Jewish Publication Society 1985

All the days of Solomon, Judah and Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba dwelt in safety, everyone under his own vine and his own fig tree.

## Jewish Publication Society 2023

All the days of Solomon, Judah and Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba dwelt in safety, every family under its own vine and fig tree.

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