

OLD TESTAMENT TRANSLATION NOTES

The Conversational Version

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The Conversational Version of the Old Testament combines two goals: (1) to express biblical material the way people speak conversationally in twenty-first-century American English; (2) to apply to the text the principles a professor of composition would use to evaluate expository writing in that style. The goals supplement and limit each other. The alterations from the wording in the original text intend not to add to, subtract from, or change the semantic content—the referents themselves. Word pictures for the same referent can differ across languages without interfering with semantic equivalency; hence, translation endeavors lose “accuracy” in smaller points like imagery/word picture, emphasis, and attitude to make it sound natural to today’s reader.

The Conversational Version endeavors to make its contribution at the second level, the custom-of-usage level. The first level reproduces the source language’s terms and syntax as closely as reasonable—“literal” translation. But languages differ considerably in ways noted below, and each language changes in its own usage customs over time. *CV* aims particularly to update English custom of usage while being faithful to authorial intent without going so far as to “tell it in our own words,” as in loose paraphrase. This “dynamic equivalence” differs from paraphrase by trying to work item-for-item from literal wording to resulting expression. It avoids recasting the text whole cloth. So translation styles range from exact word-for-word on a continuum to general retelling. These “Translator’s Notes” help specify the “mechanics” *CV* adopts.

Besides the literal-periphrastic continuum, there is the translation-interpretation variable. The ideal calls for rendering the text in a way that leaves interpretation up to the reader, at least in “important” cases. Should clarifications appear in the text or in marginal comments? One alternative puts the literal in the text and footnotes the translator’s take on its meaning. The other alternative puts the clarified wording in the text with marginal notation that gives the “literal” wording. An example, Deuteronomy **23:18** in *CV*, “*Don’t take the hire of a female or male prostitute* to the LORD’s house for an offering to fulfill a vow.*” For “male prostitute,” the original reads “*dog.*” The adopted wording understands “*dog*” as a derogatory term for a male prostitute, based perhaps on the image of a “horny” old dog. A typical reader might not make that connection; so *CV* “clarifies” in the translation itself to avoid distraction over uncertainty. Covering the mouth was a gesture with various nuances that a modern reader would have to surmise; so we have sometimes substituted other wording or expanded the wording with an explanatory phrase: Job **21:5**; Proverbs **30:22**; Ezekiel **24:17**; Micah **3:7**. See also Ezekiel **16:63**). Legal proceedings took place in the city gate, but modern readers would not necessarily suppose that. So, *CV* has substituted the expression “in court”: Deuteronomy **21:19**; Ruth **4:11**; Amos **5:10, 12**. The quandary shows that translation involves interpretation. Consistency between the

two alternatives is difficult to achieve because individual cases are not equally unclear or important.

Summary of Symbols in *CV/OT*

words	original authors' words translated; or translator's added words in italicized, quoted material
word ^m	replaces the word <i>man</i>
word ^b	replaces the word <i>brother</i> as an affectionate term
words	dialog and quotations by the original authors; or translator's added words for clarification in non-dialog material; or the alternate name or spelling of it that is used elsewhere for the unitalicized name
<u>words</u>	translator's addition for highlighting lists and for proper stress in reading
[words]	translator's occasional explanatory notation within the text
[^x]repeat or []	<i>CV</i> omits a few standard English verses as repetitive or not necessary:
(words)	original author's comment parenthesized in this version
[words]	original authors' comments inside quoted material
+	complete list
*	major point, note explanatory notation
fem	feminine grammatical gender
mas	masculine grammatical gender
sg	singular in the original
pl	plural in the original
LXX	Septuagint reading (ancient Greek translation of the OT)
MT	the standardized Hebrew text
/	used between variants of original names, standard type being the form of the name in this instance and italics for the form of the name found elsewhere; used also for words added for clarification
f	imperfect (= future) tense; used where the imperfect tense has an imperatival force

Misc. abbreviations: *BDB* (*A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament* by Brown, Driver, and Briggs), *CV* (*The Conversational Version*), MT (Masoretic text), LXX (pre-Christian Greek translation of the Old Testament), ptc (participle), *TEV* (*Today's English Version*, 1976)

Notable Features of Contemporary English

Active-Voice Verbs

Active voice means the grammatical subject is acting in the verb: "*God created the earth and sky.*" Passive voice means the subject is acted on by the verb: "*the earth and sky were created by God.*" Languages develop passive voice for cases (a) where the agent of action is not known, (b)

where the writer does not want to identify the agent, (c) where the agent's identity does not matter, (d) where putting the object of action in the subject slot connects more easily with the preceding context. Contemporary English prefers active voice as more straightforward, so *CV* transforms passive-voice constructions into active ones wherever possible: *"Half of the kingdom will be given to you"* can become *"I'll give you half the kingdom"* (Esther 5:3, 6; see also Isaiah 2:11, etc.). Transformation can happen only if the context specifies the agent (or means) elsewhere—or is at least part of general knowledge (Isaiah 33:24).

Action Verbs

Action verbs carry more punch than linking verbs or nouns equivalents. That calls for rewording some linking-verb sentences with active verbs, as in 2 Samuel 22:19 (*"was my support"* becomes *"supported me"*); 1 Kings 4:5 (*"Nathan was overseer"* becomes *"Nathan oversaw"*); Proverbs 15:8 (*"A wicked man's sacrifice is detestable to the LORD"* becomes *"The LORD detests a wicked man's sacrifice"*); Jeremiah 6:10 (*"The word of the LORD has become a reproach to them"* becomes *"Any message from the LORD offends them"*). Action verbs can replace nouns, as in the opening statement in Joshua, *"After the death of Moses"* becomes *"after Moses died."*

The recurring expression at the end of accounts of judges is *"he died and was buried in . . ."* *CV* has recast the formula as, *"When he died, they buried him . . ."* The change gets rid of a passive voice, replaces paratactic with hypotactic construction, and uses *they* advisedly to increase readability (Judges 10:2, 5; 12:7, 10, 11, 15). See also Deuteronomy 18:12; Judges 11:6, 9; Ruth 4:14, etc. *"After the death of Moses"* becomes *"After Moses died"* (Joshua 1:1).

The principle applies to expletive constructions with *it* and *there*. An expletive is a meaningless word that indicates the subject comes later in the sentence. *"There was a mistake^{subject} in the sentence"* can become *"The sentence had a mistake in it."* *"It is necessary for you to leave^{subject}"* can become *"You need to leave"* (In the original form of the sentence, the infinitive is the conceptual subject.) Transforming expletive sentences into action-verb formats does not always improve them: *"There was a severe famine in the land"* (Genesis 12:10); *"It's so good and pleasant for brothers to live together in peace"* (Psalm 133:1). Expletive constructions are common in everyday talk, but *CV* minimizes their use because this is, after all, a written presentation; so written rhetorical preference overrides conversational tendencies. Linking verbs sometimes get "covered up" inside of contractions with the subject: *"John's my brother."*

Advised Usages

They and *you* can have the value of indefinite pronouns (used "advisedly"):

they in Joshua 24:33: *"Eleazar . . . died, and they buried him at Gibeah."* cp. 1 Samuel 16:2; Jeremiah 36:30.

you in Genesis 41:21: *"Yet when they'd eaten them, you couldn't tell it. They were as scrawny as before."* cp. 1 Kings 8:6; Job 28:12; Proverbs 1:15; 20:17; Jeremiah 24:2, 3, 8; 19:11; 46:23; Ezekiel 40:40; Hosea 1:10, etc.

Avoiding Cognate Accusatives

Cognate accusatives can sound trite to the English ear. The construction combines a verb with a cognate direct object. *CV* sometimes rewords them. In Hebrew “*die the death*” adds emphasis, something like “*surely die*” (Numbers 23:10); “*pray this prayer*” changes to “*offer this prayer*” (2 Samuel 7:27); “*the commandments that he commanded*” becomes “*commandments to Jacob’s descendants*”). “*If a prophet or dreamer ~~of dreams~~ arises and gives you a sign or wonder . . .*” ⁵*Execute that prophet or dreamer ~~of dreams~~*” (Deuteronomy 13:1, 5). See also 2 Kings 17:34; 18:6; Nehemiah 1:6; Psalm 65:18, etc.

Contractions

The Conversational Version uses contractions whenever natural, one of its most noticeable features. Contractions happen with pronouns plus auxiliary verbs, auxiliary verbs plus negatives, *let us* (*let’s*), and some noun subjects plus third-person auxiliaries (*is*, *has*). The first group includes *I’d*, *I’m*, *I’ll*, etc. The second group has *won’t*, *can’t*, and the like. Finally, there are some examples like “*The LORD’s my Shepherd*” (cp. Isaiah 25:9; Joel 2:2). We have dispensed with contractions in the Decalogue (Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 5) to create a more deliberate feel. The core of Israel’s constitution calls for more formal expression: “*Do not commit murder*” vs. “*Don’t murder.*”

NOTE: In the Ten Commandments, we have replaced the Hebrew imperfect (uncompleted action) used as a command form (“*You will not . . .*”) with the imperative mood in English (“*Do not . . .*”). Secondly, *CV* has dispensed with “*thou shalt*” as a second-person archaic pronoun-plus-imperfect in these commandments.

Using contractions combines with several other features of *CV* to make create the “feel” of the text when reading it aloud.

Inclusive Language

Translators render what the text says rather than what they or their audience would like it to say. We have tried to be faithful to the sense of scripture while agreeing that we gain nothing from holding onto older customs of English usage that distract and distance the content from its modern audience. In the other direction, we have avoided some forms of inclusive language that seem cumbersome and confusing: the “*he or she*” format or alternating *he* and *she* within a segment. Unspecified reference comes across with something straightforward: *man/men* shifts to *a person/people*, a plural form, changing the reference to first or second person, or an indefinite pronoun. Other possibilities are advised *you* (Job 8:18; 9:3; Psalm 49:8; Ecclesiastes 1:10), advised *they* (Genesis 17:1), an abstraction expressed by a gerund (Leviticus 11:24, 26, 27, 39; 22:4, 5), by switching the construction to passive voice, which eliminates necessary reference to agent of action (Isaiah 28:4), or by using *mortals* in place of *men* when the contrast is with the divine: Genesis 6:3; Judges 9:9; Job 4:17; 5:7; 14:1; 2 Chronicles 14:11; Job 2:4. Another practice that is becoming increasingly useful is using a plural pronoun to reference a singular antecedent. Trying to accommodate current proclivities in this matter poses one of the more challenging aspects of

biblical translation into contemporary English usage. That is because of the all-pervasive practice historically of using the same term for the human species and the male of the human species in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, standard English, *etc.*

More importantly, we have followed scripture's precedent in its uniform reference to Judaeo-Christian deity and angelic beings in masculine terms, despite sex as something irrelevant to the spiritual realm (John 4:24 [*"God is spirit"*] plus Luke 24:39 [*"A spirit doesn't have flesh and bones as you can see I have."*]). God does not have sex and is not a combination of sexes; God is transcendent to sexuality, being transcendent to physicality. The surmise is that, given the confines of human understanding and human language based on it, masculine terminology maintains, not only the personhood (*vs. it*), but the primacy and power of God and other spiritual and physical beings. The God of the Bible has ultimate responsibility for the rest of reality, hence authority over it and ultimate power to direct it. Working backward through that series, plays on his personal omnipotence that issues in stability and security, and guarantees hope for his people. The human parallel *in his image*—the interpersonal capacity, we take it—likewise issues in an observation that greater physical strength conveys greater psychological security in those affected by another person's actions. It is more difficult for women to project strength, hence, power, and security (cp. Genesis 17:1; 2 Peter 2:11).

Traditionally, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, English, and many other languages have used *man* in contrast to woman (hence, male), God (hence, humankind, mankind), animal (hence, humankind; Numbers 3:13), child (hence, adult as later in 1 Corinthians 13:11), thing, or idea. As said above, it has been used both for the "species" and the male of the species. This version has avoided *man/men* for mixed or unspecified reference when able to do so without creating awkward expression. In Proverbs, however, *CV* has retained *son* in the vocative because the book pictures a father teaching his son. Similarly in Ecclesiastes, *man* is retained in situations where the king is speaking about his own experience since presumably King Solomon is speaking.

The word *man* appears where it contrasts with woman. In the other circumstances, we have usually rendered *man* (אָדָם) as *a person, people*, an indefinite pronoun, a plural, *a mortal*, or some other inclusive term; deleted it altogether (Micah 6:8) or appealed to passive voice. In such cases, *man* in the original text itself did not mean "man in contrast to woman"; it meant *humankind vs.* other orders of being or kinds. So, the adjustments do not involve altering intended content.

Interjections

Written English minimizes the use of interjections. The Old Testament has a number of them, and *CV* keeps a few: *ha* (Ezekiel 25:2; 26:2; 36:2); *ah* (Jeremiah 34:5; Ezekiel 4:14). The original Hebrew and Aramaic terms are as follows:

הוּי is the most common interjection, appearing especially in Isaiah. It comes across in English translations as *alas, ah, ha, woe*: 1 Kings 13:30^{ah}; Isaiah 1:24^x; 5:8^{woe}, 11^w, 18^w, 20^w, 21^w; 5:22^w; 10:1^w, 5^w; 17:12^{ah}; 18:1^{ah}; 28:1^w; 29:1^w, 15^w; 30:1^w; 31:1^w; 33:1^w; 45:9^w, 10^w; Jeremiah 22:13^w, 18^{2x}; 23:1^w; 30:7^x; 34:5^{ha}; 47:6^x; 48:1^w, 50:27^w; Amos 6:1^w; Micah 2:1^w; Nehemiah 3:1^w;

Habakkuk 2:6^w, 9^w, 12^w, 15^w, 19^w; Zephaniah 2:5^w; 3:1^w; Zechariah 2:6^x, 7^x; 11:17^w *. *CV* avoids the expression as archaic, substituting some other wording to catch the sentiment (Amos 5:16, 18).

𐤁𐤏𐤏 is not translated (Joshua 7:7; Judges 6:22; 11:35; 2 Kings 3:10; 6:5, 15; Jeremiah 1:6; 4:10; 14:13; 32:17; Ezekiel 4:14; 9:8; 11:13; 20:49*).

𐤁𐤏𐤏 is in Job 39:25^{aha}; Psalm 35:21² ^{aha}; 40:15² ^{aha}; 70:3² ^{ah} Isaiah 44:16^{ah}; Ezekiel 25:3^{ha}; 26:2^{ha}; 36:2*.

𐤁𐤏 is in Ezekiel 6:11^x; 21:15*.

𐤁𐤏 is in Genesis 47:23^x; Ezekiel 16:43^w; Daniel 2:43^x.*

𐤁𐤏 is in Daniel 3:25^x.*

CV has not taken the liberty of using cursing. Exodus 5:21 is kept at “*Yahveh condemn you.*” At this time, so far removed from the original, what constituted cursing may be uncertain. Cursing usually involves distinct pitch patterns, which are not available in a written text that does not have punctuation to indicate features of the oral presentation. It would not be surprising if the import of Pharaoh’s word carried the force of “*God damn you.*”

Litotes Avoided

Litotes is a figure of speech that makes an affirmation by denying its opposite. It has been replaced, for example, in Deuteronomy 5:11: “*He will not leave him unpunished who takes his name in vain*” becomes “*He will punish whoever does that.*” Similarly, Joshua 3:10; 1 Samuel 20:5; Proverbs 6:29; 17:5; *etc.*; but kept in Deuteronomy 33:6 and Proverbs 16:5; 19:4.

Negating the Verb

Current English idiom prefers negating the verb rather than the direct object: “*you give him nothing*” becomes “*you don’t help him*” (Deuteronomy 15:9; cp. 1 Samuel 12:15; 18:24; 2 Chronicles 18:15; Ezra 4:3; Daniel 6:5, *etc.*).

Nouns Typical of Their Class

In place of a definite article for nouns typical of their class, contemporary English prefers an indefinite article: “*Miriam . . . took a/the tambourine*” (Exodus 15:20); “*But a/the nation that puts its neck under his yoke, I’ll let remain on its land*” (Jeremiah 11:8).

In some cases, plural nouns can stand for the class: “[*The gleanings*] will be for foreigners, orphans, or widows” (Deuteronomy 24:19); “*Worms will eat them*” (Deuteronomy 28:39); “*Go look at ants*” (Proverbs 6:6).

Other cases of translating nouns typical of their class include Exodus 13:49; Numbers 35:6, 12-13; Deuteronomy 19:4; Ruth 3:14 (a woman); 1 Samuel 16:16; 17:36; 2 Kings 8:19; 2 Chronicles 7:13, 15; 25:18; 26:13; Nehemiah 6:13; 11:13; Esther 6:6; 7:17; Psalm 10:18; 34:19; 49:4; 92:10; Proverbs 14:1; 23:24; Ecclesiastes 1:14, 16; Isaiah 11:6-8; 24:2; Isaiah 28:24; 32:5;

40:10; 41:19; 44:7; 51:8; Jeremiah 27:11, 28; Ezekiel 18:13, 18, 19; 22:20, 22; Hosea 9:10; Hosea 13:3; 14:5-6; Zechariah 14:14, 18; Malachi 3:5.

NOTE: *CV* has translated Malachi 2:17 as “*Where’s a just God?*” as if to say there is no such thing. The Hebrew article does appear on “*justice*” (“*x God of [the] justice*”), which would normally make the construct noun definite as well: “the just God” (a noun in construct cannot carry the article). The rendering supposes this statement involves a case of a noun typical of its class.

No article can cover the “*kind of thing*,” similar to a class: “*Give me liberty or give me death.*”

Numbers

Arabic cardinal numbers appear more often than style manuals advise; they are easier to spot in a text. They occur to indicate reigns, distances, dimensions, especially in contexts where groups of numbers come up: Genesis 46:26, 27; 47:9; Exodus 25:53; Judges 7:5; 8:10; 11:26; 20:44; 1 Kings 9:23; 10:12, 20; Daniel 13:11-12. In several places, sentences even start with Arabic numbers: Judges 7:6; 20:34, 44; Numbers 25:9; 2 Kings 2:7; and so on.

Only twice do ordinal numbers come in Arabic form: the Genesis flood began in the 600th year of Noah’s life (Genesis 7:11); Solomon began to build the Temple in the 480th year after the Israelites came out of Egypt (1 Kings 6:1).

Positive Statement

Written expression prefers positive over negative statements. Some passages *CV* transforms from passive to active statements: 1 Kings 2:4 (“*Will not fail to have a man on Israel’s throne*” becomes “*will always have a man on Israel’s throne*”); Isaiah 48:16 (“*not secretly*” becomes “*openly*”); cp. Genesis 8:22; Ruth 4:15; Ezra 4:22; Job 27:5; Psalm 44:18; Proverbs 2:19; 22:6; Jeremiah 32:30; 35:19; Ezekiel 16:22, 43.

Post-Positive Intensive Pronouns

Modern English puts intensive pronouns at the end of clauses rather than immediately after their antecedents. 1 Samuel 19:22 says, “*Then Saul went to Ramah himself*”; similarly, Genesis 31:39; 2 Samuel 12:28; 2 Chronicles 26:20; Nehemiah 4:10; Job 19:27; 21:20; Psalm 57:6; Proverbs 22:16; Isaiah 41:17; Jeremiah 21:5; 46:2; Lamentations 1:4; Ezekiel 14:4, 7; 18:11; 34:11, 25; Daniel 6:16.

Post-Positive Prepositions

Ending sentences with prepositions has become standard in conversation and informal writing. The usage connects the object of the preposition more closely to its antecedent: “*the man [that] I gave the book to.*” The format also avoids the dreaded *whom*, as when it combines with a syntax that drops the objective pronoun in personal relative clauses: “*the man ~~whom~~ I gave the book to.*” See Joshua 22:17; Ecclesiastes 3:10; 4:8; Isaiah 19:16; 40:25; 46:14, etc.

Pro-Verbs

English, oral English especially, (a) replaces a repeated verb with a stand-alone *do/did/done* (“*Don’t make the same mistake I did*”); (b) uses the verb’s auxiliary (“*She was taking the same course I was taking*”), or (c) uses only the sign of the infinitive (“*unless the doctor tells you to ~~quit~~*”). See Genesis **19:22**; **20:7**; **24:6**; **43:5**; Deuteronomy **19:20**; Joshua **5:5**; **6:17??**; Judges **6:4**; **8:23**; Ruth **3:13**; 1 Samuel **1:1**; **13:22**; **18:30**; 2 Samuel **12:28**; Job **42:7**; Psalm **106:34**; Proverbs **15:7**; Ecclesiastes **9:2**; Jeremiah **37:9** (“*they won’t*”); Ezekiel **18:24**, **29**; Hosea **8:7**; *etc.* Hebrew does not have auxiliary verbs; so it lacks pro-verb constructions.

Restrained Expression

English writers tend away from superlatives, especially elative superlatives like *very*, *really*, *completely*. They do it to avoid the suspicion that they are artificially heightening the importance of what they are saying. *CV* has dispensed with several of them (Zechariah **8:2**, *etc.*). Included in this matter is a Hebrew idiom for intensified action: infinitive absolute plus cognate finite verb: Genesis **22:14** (ptc).

Split Infinitives

Split infinitives are losing their place among proscribed English constructions: “*to boldly go where no one has gone . . .*” In classical languages and their derivatives, infinities are one word created by a suffix. In English, *to* stands separate from the root (if *to* is expressed) and has no more reason to function as a bound construction than a progressive verb does: *to go/to quickly go; they were going/they were not going*. See Deuteronomy **17:18** (“*to greatly increase silver and gold*”); **7:24**; **6:24**; Ruth **1:16**; 2 Samuel **14:32**; Nehemiah **11:13**; Proverbs **19:2**; Ecclesiastes **5:5**; Isaiah **29:15**; **51:13**; *etc.*

Miscellaneous Grammatical Points

CV has one case of double subject (“*My brother, he . . .*”) in Psalm **24:10**: “*The LORD of Hosts, he is the glorious King*” (for emphasis), otherwise called a pendens construction.

Who regularly stands in slots where traditional grammar calls for *whom*: “*Who will I be afraid of? Who will I dread?*” (Psalm **27:1**). “*Who would he want to honor more than me?*” (Esther **6:6**); Genesis **19:12**; **32:17**; Joshua **24:15**; 1 Samuel **10:24**; **28:11**; **30:13**; 2 Samuel **3:12**; 2 Kings **2:22**; **18:20**; Ecclesiastes **4:8²**; Lamentations **2:20**; Isaiah **6:8**; **10:3**; **53:1**; **57:4³**, **11**.

Idiom can override grammar: “*If I go into the city, there’s famine and disease*” (Jeremiah **14:18**).

Anachronisms

CV has resisted the temptation to express information in ways that are anachronistic; that is, the wording has not carried dynamic equivalency to the point of using expressions that do not fit with Old Testament times—even though the modern equivalents would identify closer with today’s

readership. “Casting lots” is retained in place of “*flipping a coin*” (Proverbs 18:18) or “*throwing dice*” (Psalm 22:18); “*a nagging wife is like constant dripping*” instead of a “*dripping faucet*” (Proverbs 19:13); speaking of employer-employee in places that talk about master-slave. In cases where the form of the document seems involved, *CV* calls it a “*scroll*” rather than a “*book*,” which in the modern usage conjures up a set of bound leaves, a codex.

Conversational Characteristics

All languages experience “linguistic drift.” In addition, at any one time more than one “level” of usage also exists from formal and technical to everyday and slang. We have endeavored to strike a middle level that avoids formal, academic expression while staying away from regionalisms, slang; flippant, shocking, catchy, cutesy verbiage; unrequired pejorative words and terms and expressions with negative connotations: Exodus 5:21 could sound like swearing, “*The LORD condemn you!*” Because of its source and subject matter, scripture calls for respectful expression that everybody can understand. Besides, non-native speakers might not recognize English slang, regionalisms, jive, and the like.

We have followed American custom in spelling, vocabulary, syntax, and punctuation where they differ from British conventions (-ize/-ise, -er/-re when not comparative degree or agency, or/-our, and so on). Collective nouns have accompanying singular verbs: “*The committee holds session daily*” rather than “*hold*”). The practices highlighted below add to observations presented earlier in “Current English Features.”

Contrary-to-Fact Sentences

English has virtually lost the subjunctive mood. It occurs almost exclusively in the protasis of a contrary-to-fact sentence: “*If I were John, . . .*” People usually do not employ the subjunctive even there: “*If I was John . . .*” A hearer knows from experience that the statement is contrary-to-fact without hearing a special construction for it. What is not necessary tends to fall out of usage, so we have broken the formal rule in some places: Deuteronomy 28:27²; Joshua 22:32; 1 Samuel 20:20; 2 Samuel 19:6; 2 Kings 5:3; Job 16:4; Psalm 35:14²; Isaiah 49:26; Jeremiah 9:1; 22:24; Job 6:2; 50:12;

“Dative of Possession” Avoided

“*For the Jews there was light and gladness and joy and honor*” becomes “*The Jews had light, happiness, joy, and honor*” (Esther 8:16; cp. Daniel 9:7, 9).

Distribution Replacing Case

Since English has lost case-form everywhere except in pronouns, speakers have become unskilled in “proper” case usage with pronouns personal, relative, intensive, and reflexive. In place of case-form, English uses distribution in a sentence; it determines a word’s role by its location

(where it appears in a sentence) rather than by its form. When it comes to pronouns, the growing practice is to put the subjective form ahead of the verb and the objective form after it even if it is a linking verb: “*It’s not me. God will give you a sensible answer.*” (Genesis 41:16; cp. Genesis 39:9; Exodus 4:11; 1 Kings 22:33; 2 Kings 9:37; Job 6:2; 16:4; 34:33; Isaiah 45:3, 21; 49:26).

See “Individual Words” in the final section of these Notes for current usage changes with individual words like *a, as, can, even, for, if, just, lest, like, man, of, one, only, than, they, whom, you*.

Everyday Vocabulary

Newer translations have set aside the old English second-person pronouns (*thou/thee/thine, ye*) and second- and third-person singular verb suffixes (*[-e]st/[-e]th*), obsolete vocabulary, and spellings that appeared in Bible versions before the 1940s. That upgrading has helped take away an antiquated, foreign feel to the Bible. Scripture addresses every person everywhere at every time, so its language should suit the culture at any time and place (readership verisimilitude).

People’s reading vocabulary is bigger than their speaking one; it is the latter that we have aimed for, though we are presenting in written form. Even then, typical conversations, as at the bus stop, show a preference for a narrower range of vocabulary, expressions, and sentence structures than what the same speakers would use in a public presentation.

Everyday vocabulary includes minimizing the use of “religious” jargon to talk in a way typical people identify with. That goal does not succeed well because adequate substitutes do not exist for everything religious concern addresses. A sizeable set of English words in Old Testament texts currently appear mostly in modern religious contexts with religious connotations—sometimes negative ones. It is difficult to find authentic-sounding, current replacements for Bible words like Almighty, bless(ed/ness), defile, flesh, glory, godly, heaven (for sky), holy/holiness, iniquity, joy, proclaim, prophesy/prophesy, rejoice, repent/ance, righteous/ness, redeemer, salvation/save/savior, sanctify, sin/sinner/sinful/sinless, testify (outside of courtroom proceedings), transgression, voice (for sound), witness (outside of court proceedings), worship, wrath, and so on.

The Conversational Version has not aimed at a certain “grade level” even though it tends toward that effect by simplifying vocabulary and shortening sentences.

Pendens Constructions Avoided

Pendens constructions mark off appositives or stray comments, especially long ones that are not grammatically integral parts of their sentences or modifying an integral element. We have eliminated them, for example, in Numbers 14:22-23; Judges 17:2; Jeremiah 13:11; Amos 8:14; 9:5-6. They are retained in several places like Genesis 2:19; 23:15; 24:14, 43-44; 2 Kings 17:36; Proverbs 20:10; Nehemiah 13:10; Isaiah 56:6-7.

CV has used a couple nominative absolutes: Exodus 22:11, 13.

Possessive Gerunds Avoided

“The Message the LORD Spoke to Jeremiah About Nebuchadnezzar Coming to Strike Egypt” appears in the Jeremiah 46:13 heading instead of the ‘correct’ *“Nebuchadnezzar’s Coming to Strike Egypt.”* (The subject of a gerund in standard English carries the possessive case.) Zephaniah 2:8 says, *“I’ve heard Moab’s taunting my people and Ammon’s reviling them”* changed to *“I’ve heard Moab taunting my people and Ammon reviling them”* (using participial objective complements). But see Jeremiah: *“I remember . . . your following me in the open country”* (Jeremiah 2:2).

Quotation Marks

Quotation marks identify direct discourse, that is, a speaker’s purported words. Imbedded quotations are direct discourse that falls within direct discourse: Isaiah told the king, *“This is what the LORD says, ‘Set your house in order; you’re going to die’”* (1 Kings 20:1). Sometimes embedded quotations can go three, four, five, or maybe even six levels deep: *“The LORD says, ‘These people say, “It’s not time to rebuild the LORD’s house”””* (Haggai 1:2). Zechariah is four deep in 1:2-6.

English uses indirect discourse much more frequently than the Hebrew Old Testament does, so *CV* transforms quite a number from direct to indirect form. A list of many such transforms appears later under “indirect discourse formats.”

Texts with indirect questions include Genesis 24:47; Exodus 12:26; 16:15; Joshua 4:3; 15:18; Judges 6:29; 9:2; 12:5; 2 Samuel 14:32; 2 Kings 9:17, 18, 19; 18:22; Ezekiel 12:9; 20:49; 21:7; Zechariah 1:21; 2:2; 5:10.

Quotation marks appear around words that indicate the meaning of place names: See below under “Mechanics of Written English: Quotation Marks.”

Sentence Structures

Using shorter sentences mimics the way people talk in contrast to their formal writing. Complex-compound sentences yield to smaller units unless they are short. Compound-complex sentences have two or more independent clauses along with one or more subordinate ones: *“She opened the back door and let the dog out into the back yard because she wanted to mop the kitchen floor.”* If the original text has a lengthy sentence, a period break can appear with italicized re-start words for the rest of the thought (unitalicized if inside italics):

¹⁴(*“Don’t worship any other god, because the LORD—whose name is Exclusive—is an exclusive God.”*) ¹⁵Destroy those things *so you won’t be making covenants with them, carrying on prostitution with their gods, sacrificing to them, eating their sacrifices with them—*¹⁶*so you won’t be taking their daughters for your sons, and their daughters carry on prostitution with their gods and get your sons to do it”* (Exodus 34:14-16).

“Destroy these things” (unitalicized in verse 15 from verse 13) and *“so you won’t”* (unitalicized in verse 16 within italics) re-starts the statement in 34:15 so readers can more easily follow the train of thought.

CV aims for the more common sentence sequence: subject, verb, direct object, indirect object. If the indirect object is short, it may appear ahead of the direct object without its sign (*to*). *CV* avoids putting much material ahead of the subject, like Samson's riddle does in Judges 14:14: "*Out of the eater came something to eat.*" An English verb seldom stands ahead of its subject: "*the LORD says,*" rather than "*says the LORD*" (Ezekiel 11:21, *etc.*). Direct object before subject does happen in 2 Chronicles 23:14 to avoid having too much material between the verb and direct object if put in its standard place: "*Whoever follows her, put to death with a sword.*" So, sentences keep to a minimum the amount of adverbial material placed ahead of the subject and between the other main parts of a sentence—subject and verb, verb and direct object. Sentences use introductory adverbial clauses in place of participial phrases and "nominative" absolutes. (Only in a few set expressions do English speakers ever use nominative absolutes anyway: "*Truth be told*"; "*That said.*"). If an introductory clause is too long, it and the main clause can become two independent clauses joined by a comma plus coordinating conjunction or perhaps recast as two sentences with a semi-colon between plus no conjunction.

Informal speech tends to be paratactic. It reduces the frequency of introductory adverbial clauses, participial phrases, and absolute constructions. For example, "*Opening the door, she let the dog out.*" The wording is more likely, "*She opened the door and let the dog out.*" Paratactic contrasts with hypotactic. Paratactic format puts ideas—opening the door, putting the dog out—on the same grammatical level by using *and* between equal verbal forms. Hypotactic structure subordinates one grammatically with a participial phrase ("*Opening the door, she put the dog out.*"), introductory adverbial clause ("*When she opened the door, she let the dog out.*"), or infinitive phrase ("*She opened the door to let the dog out,*"). The last two examples also nuance the meaning differently in ways that the context might suggest.

English speech increasingly practices asyndeton, where speakers say sentences without putting coordinate—or even subordinate—conjunctions between them, especially if the sentences are long. Hebrew has the opposite, syndetic pattern; it puts its coordinate conjunction between virtually every full sentence (as well as between serial items in it). Whole books can start with *and*: Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, Kings, and so on. See below under "Hebrew-English Shifts." *CV* reduces the number of subordinating conjunctions, especially where a second clause supplies a reason for the first. As based on experience and knowing the nature of things, if a listener will understand that the second clause states a reason for the first, *because* or *so* does not have to appear at all (Deuteronomy 15:2; 28:39).

These comments on conversational style describe an endeavor similar to creating a paraphrase. A paraphrase should be more exacting than "*telling it in our own words.*" That would more easily risk losing content or altering meaning. This version makes a more deliberate, element-by-element decision on the way to express individual points. The translation considers (1) grammatical and (2) custom-of-usage levels. It also considers (a) whether an element in the original can be dropped without loss (repeated material), (b) whether it can be expressed in fewer words (economy of expression), (c) whether it can be relocated for more natural English sequencing (smoother connections), and (d) whether it can be left to a reader's automatic inference. Below,

“Shortening Mechanisms” indicates procedures for more efficient, more interesting, expression. Hebrew idiom tends to use pleonastic, replete, tautological, redundant expression—perhaps for emphasis—in contrast to English. But that does not require reducing content; it means eliminating repetition and statements about implicit information. Interesting communication says only enough for the reader to flesh out the rest of the picture accurately. Much of the effort in preparing this version has consisted in tightening up the manner of expression.

Hebrew-English Differences

The previous two sections (“Features of Contemporary English” and “Conversational Characteristics”) included some Hebrew-English differences. This section notes other differences between Hebrew and English custom of usage. We have limited our alterations in many places that would obscure structural features in the text: poetic parallelism, bookends, poetic repetition, portions organized around body parts, and a number of set expressions like *afraid or intimidated*, *strong hand and outstretched arm*, *strong and courageous*, *eat and drink*, *food and water*, *day and night*, *on every high hill and under every green tree*, *come back on (their) own head*; and various combinations of the related descriptors: *commandments*, *ordinances*, *statutes*, *laws*, *regulations*, *charges*, and *judgments through Moses*.

Anaphoric Entries

(a) anaphoric nouns

Hebrew creates a kind of grandiloquence by re-using a noun instead of replacing it with a pronoun in subsequent entries. We have changed that pattern to English preference for pronouns: Genesis **27:22**; **29:12**; Exodus **33:7-11**; Joshua **6:6**; **10:24**; 1 Samuel **11:6**; 2 Samuel **21:15** check; 2 Kings **15:4**; 2 Chronicles **28:24**; **35:24-27**; Psalm **115:11**, **13**; **116:13**; **42:1**; **118:7**, **9**, **14**, **26**; **44:21**; **135:3**, **4**.

Poetry might justify reusing a noun because, if sung/chanted as in the Psalms, the delivery might be slower with more spacing between entries. Even there we reduce from four to three, for example, *the LORD’s* in Psalm **33:1-5**.

(b) anaphoric adjectives

Personal possessive suffixes in Hebrew append to each word, but English can put one possessive ahead of a list because the possessive is a separate word: Numbers **14:23**; **18:22**; Deuteronomy **6:9**; 2 Kings **18:12**; 1 Chronicles **28:6**; Nehemiah **5:10**, **13**; Psalm **7:8**; **8:3**; **27:1**; **35:38**; **84:3**. That free-standing adjective can then apply to two or more subsequent nouns. Sometimes that double or triple application might not be correct, so the adjective-noun combination can go last in the clause,

(c) anaphoric articles

This version often omits second articles: (“the x and the y” becomes “the x and y”): Genesis **1:1**: “*God created the heavens and the earth*” (“*created the earth and sky*”);

note also Nehemiah 5:6, 11²; Esther 1:16. Using one article in these situations does alter slightly how the author views the nouns' referents—as two separate items of equal importance here or as one set comprised of two items. The semantic value remains.

(d) anaphoric prepositions

Hebrew has several inseparable prepositions, which cannot have multiple objects because they prefix to their objects. They are not free standing as they are in English, Greek, and Latin. So, they are re-expressed for each object in a series. We have eliminated the re-expressions in places like Exodus 29:27.

(e) anaphoric conjunctions (See *and* under “Individual Words” below.)

(f) recurrent descriptors that seem unnecessary for clarity as in “the Law of Moses, the man of God” (2 Chronicles 30:16) and similar additions like 2 Chronicles 34:33 (“their God”); 35:3; 36:13, 15

Body-Part Imagery

Hebrew uses body parts to symbolically express many ideas in ways not customary in English that has not been influenced by biblical expression: arm, bones, bowels, cheek (Lamentations 3:30), ears, eyes, face, feet, fingers, flesh, forehead, hair, hand, head, heart, knee/knees, leg, lips, loins, mouth, neck, shoulder, teeth, throat, toes, tongue, voice. *CV* drops them in favor of English idiom whenever possible.

(a) voice/sound of x: 1 Kings 1:48; 5:24; 18:9; 2 Kings 21:8; 2 Chronicles 30:27; Jeremiah 47:3; Ezekiel 26:13

(b) agency: arm

(c) perspective: eyes

(d) “(stiff) neck”: stubbornness

Such expression may remain in poetic structures or in body-part lists for oratorical flare: Deuteronomy 29:4; Nehemiah 1:6; Job 8:20-21; 20:12-19; 16:9-15; 33:2-4; Psalm 66:17; 115:5-7; Isaiah 6:5-6, 9-10; 11:4; 32:3-4; 30:27-28; 33:15; 35:3-6; 37:29; 45:23; 58:3; 59:3; 66:12; Habakkuk 3:16.

Body-part language is part of the propensity for parallelism, double entry, as well as concrete and expansive expression, which includes specificity of expression, as illustrated in “Specificity for Vividness.”

Brevity

What departs norm grabs attention, which can give emphasis. Hebrew seems to use expanded expression to emphasize (above norm) while English prizes brevity for that purpose (under norm). Pleonastic style comes across in English as less interesting; it is wordy, tautological, redundant, repetitious, something a written comp prof marks in red. After this section, “Shortening Mechanisms” lists efforts *CV* has made to adjust the idiom without losing the content.

We have not shortened or removed some set expressions:

“Jeroboam *that made Israel sin*” (1 Kings **15:26, 30, 34; 16:2, 19, 26; 2 Kings 3:3; 9:9; 10:29; 13:2, 6, 11, 23; 14:16, 24; 15:9, 18, 24, 28; 17:21**), a standardized label that, along with Jeroboam^I, helps distinguish him from Jeroboam^{II} (2 Kings **3:1, 6ff; 14:23-24; 15:8-9**);

afraid or intimidated (Deuteronomy **1:21; 31:8; Joshua 1:9; 8:1; 10:25; 1 Chronicles 22:13; 28:20; 2 Chronicles 20:15, 17; 32:7; Jeremiah 46:27; Ezekiel 3:8**);

day ~~and night~~ (Exodus **24:18; 34:28; Deuteronomy 9:9; 10:10; 1 Samuel 30:12; 1 Kings 19:8; Job 2:13**)

strong and courageous (Deuteronomy **31:6, 7, 23; Joshua 1:6, 18; 10:25; 2 Samuel 10:12; 13:28; 1 Chronicles 19:13; 22:13; 28:20; 2 Chronicles 32:7; Psalm 27:14**), and others;

afraid or intimidated (Deuteronomy **1:21; 31:8; Joshua 1:9; 8:1; 10:26; 1 Samuel 17:11; 20:23; 1 Chronicles 22:13; 28:20; 2 Chronicles 20:17; 32:17; Jeremiah 8:9; 46:27; Ezekiel 2:6; 3:9**)

eat and drink: By custom, English says “eat” to cover whatever goes on at a meal (Judges **19:21; Ruth 3:3; 1 Samuel 1:9; 2 Samuel 19:35; 1 Kings 18:41, 42; 19:5, 6, 8²; 2 Kings 6:23; 9:34; Job 1:4**). In about a dozen cases, the double statement stays in *CV* because drinking was perhaps a more prominent concern in arid countries or because food and wine were more special than food and other drinks: Exodus **32:6; Deuteronomy 2:6, 28; 2 Samuel 11:11; 1 Kings 18:41, 42; Proverbs 23:7; Ecclesiastes 2:24; 22:13; Jeremiah 22:15; Daniel 1:10; Zechariah 7:6²**; (note Jeremiah **16:7** as well.);

food and water (Deuteronomy **2:6, 28; 23:4; Isaiah 3:1**);

Haman enemy of the Jews (Esther **8:1; 9:25**);

Mordecai the Jew (Esther **5:13; 6:10; 9:29; 10:3**);

strong hand and outstretched arm (Deuteronomy **4:15; 5:15; 7:19; 9:29; 11:2; 26:8; 2 Chronicles 6:32; Psalm 136:12; Jeremiah 21:5; 32:21; Ezekiel 33:34; cp. 2 Kings 17:36**);

bookends structure: Exodus **6:1-8; Numbers 3:42; 5:11-15** (intro), **16-28** (body), **29-31** (end); Judges **11:32; Psalm 8:1 + 9** (“*LORD, our Lord, you’re so majestic all over the world!*”)

The LORD ~~our~~/~~your~~ God is shortened in several texts where the longer expression has recently occurred: Exodus **8:27; 10:26; Numbers 10:9; Deuteronomy 2:7, 28, 33, 37; 4:34; 12:29; 16:5, 21; 20:4; 24:19; 1 Samuel 12:14; 14:26**.

Poetic repetition stands in antiphonal Psalm **136** (“*His love is everlasting*”) and Psalm **103:1-2 + 20-22; Psalm 135:19-21** (“*bless the LORD*”).

Note also 1 Samuel **1:11**.

Discontinuities

Texts frequently do not maintain continuity of person, tense, number, or viewpoint, especially in poetic materials. Instead of being a lapse in thinking, authors made such changes

perhaps to break up sameness by shifting perspectives. At any rate, to an English reader they distract and confuse rather than increase interest. Consequently, in shorter sections especially, *CV* has taken the liberty of establishing a continuity of person, tense, or number.

person: Genesis 4:15; 18:14, 17-19; 27:25, 27; 28:22; 49:26;
 Exodus 3:12; 12:7-8; 16:23; 19:21, 22, 24; 20:7, 12, 11; 24:1;
 Leviticus 26:40-45; Numbers 20:19; 24:9b;
 Deuteronomy 18:33ff.; 25:3; 29:14-21; 31:13; 32:14-15, 38; 33:3b, 18-19;
 Joshua 15:4; Judges 2:22; Nehemiah 2:13; 3:7;
2 Samuel 12:10; 17:7; 22:10-26³ + 27-30² + 31-36 + 37-41² + 42-43³ + 44-46² + 47-48³ + 49-50² + 51³;
 1 Kings 14:11; 17:15; 2 Chronicle 36:23;
 Psalm 3:3, 4-5, 6-7, 8; 5:2 + 3; 7:2, 10-11; 9:3; 13:6; 14:4-6; 18:5; 18:28-29; 34, 35-36; 20:6-7; 23:4; 24:24-27; 25:12; 41:3; 43:4; 44:8; 49:18; 50:23; 53:4; 54:3, 5; 60:12; 65:9; 68:18; 74:12; 77:4; 81:15; 89:6; 94:19-21; 99:3-4; 104:3ff; 108:13; 115:9-12; 116:17; 121:1-2, 3-9; 128:1; 132:11-12; 135:13; 138:4², 5-6³, 7², 8a³, 8b²; 142:3; 145:4-7, 8-13; 145:15-16;
 Proverbs 9:11; Isaiah 1:4; 2:5-8; 3:12a³, 12b²; 6:9-10; 9:3-4; 10:24-27; 12:1-6; 14:4; 26:15-16; 27:8; 29:2, 16; 30:3, 23; 33:13-24 (second person throughout); 42:2, 45; 42:20; 42:24; 44:23; 49:15; 51:15, 18; 53:12; 56:6-8; 58:2; 59:8-11; 61:7-10; 64:5a² b³²;
 Jeremiah 3:1; 7:26; 9:6; 11:15; 11:17, 21; 14:10; 15:3, 4, 7-8; 23:2, 36; 35:5-9; 44:4, 10;
 Lamentations 2:20-22); 23:2;
 Ezekiel 5:14; 11:17; 22:7; 23:32-49; 32:28; 34:2;
 Daniel 9:1-12;
 Hosea 2:1-17 (3), 18-19 (2/3), 20-23 (2, 3); 3:16; 5:1-4; 6:5, 7; 8:5; 9:5-6; 12:4; 13:5²-6³-7² (changed to second person throughout);
 Joel 3:17; Amos 2:9; 6:1-7; Jonah 2:2;
 Micah 2:7b, 12-13; 3:4, 5-7; 5:6; 7:4, 15, 18, 19
 Zephaniah 1:17; Zechariah 7:13, 14; 8:22; 10:6, 11; 12:10; Malachi 1:9. Our longest persons shift occurs in Isaiah 59:1-15, which begins with *you* (1-3), continues with *they* (4-8) and closes with *we* (9-15).

The complexity of this issue can be confusing as illustrated by Jeremiah 30:7b-9. *CV* has taken considerable liberties with what is evidently a variance in textual transmission on top of discontinuity of person and number. The Greek LXX reading varies from the Hebrew, and the Hebrew evidently exhibits a dual discontinuity. The following treatment captures the threefold complexity (*Hebrew/LXX/ CV*): “*He [Jacob] will be saved from it . . . I’ll break his [Jacob’s] yoke from off your/~~their~~/his neck and tear off your/~~their~~/his its straps. Foreigners won’t enslave him anymore.*”⁹*They’ll/He’ll [Jacob as a collective] serve Yahveh ~~their~~/his God and David your/~~his~~ king that I’ll raise up for ~~them~~/him.”* The result makes a true statement even if it fails to represent the form of the intended true statement in the original.

We have kept the discontinuity in some poetry (Psalm 30:3, 4, *etc.*).

tense: Genesis 2:8; Exodus 15:6-7; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 94:23; 95:10; 132:6, 17; Isaiah 26:15; 32:14 check; 37:24; Ezekiel 7:19

number: Deuteronomy 9:4; Psalm 10:16; 22:29; 35: 8; 49:12, 20; 57:4; 92:14; 103:15-16; 123:2; 127:5; Proverbs 6:1-19; Isaiah 10:25; 44:7; 46:7; Jeremiah 49:20-21; Ezekiel 5:14; Hosea 7:11-16; 10:2; 13:14; Micah 2:9

Discontinuity of both number and person shows up in Nahum 1:13.

viewpoint: *CV* tries to maintain viewpoint by choosing between *go/come* and *take/bring* to fit the viewpoint in the previous context: Psalm 121:8.

sequence English custom builds to a climax; Hebrew tends to start with the climax and come down from it. We have reversed the sequence in a few cases where that seems to be the rationale for the order in the text.

size 1 Kings 7:10, expensive stones 15ft and 12ft reordered to 12ft and 15ft

Judges 18:19 tribe-family to family-tribe;

2 Chronicles 28: Solomon's Prayer of Dedication

"*least to greatest*" from "*greatest to least*" (Jonah 3:5)

Zechariah 5:2?: 30 x 15 feet changed to 15 x 30ft

degree See also Exodus 15:16 ("*panic and dread*" changed to "*dread and panic*");

most holy and holy to holy and most holy (Leviticus 21:22).

See also 2 Kings 12:10; Isaiah 40:30.

time designation 2 Kings 25:27 (year, month, day changed to American practice: day, month, year)

Job 41:61; Psalm 40:5, 6; Proverbs 24:7; 34:27; Isaiah 27:6; 40:30; 52:2

direction "*head to toe*" instead of "*foot to head*" (Isaiah 1:6); note also "*between Beth-horon and Samaria*" instead of the reverse because the direction of the troops' movement was from south to north (2 Chronicles 25:13).

Change of sequence **to avoid misreading** in English.

Putting an adjective, article, preposition, or phrase with the first of two or more nouns inclines an English reader to associate it with the subsequent nouns as well. To help avoid that problem, we have changed the order of the nouns so the modifier appears ahead of the last noun. 2 Kings 1:8 says, "*He was wearing clothes made out of hair and a leather belt*"; the statement becomes, "*he was wearing a leather belt and clothes made out of hair.*" Hebrew can have the textual order because the possessives, prepositions, articles are attached to each word.

Change of sequence for **English euphony and custom**

English custom is for speakers to put themselves second in a combined entry. That lies behind reversing entries in Genesis 31:42²; Exodus 9:27 ("*my people and I*" from "*me and my people*"); Joshua 24:15; Judges 11:37 ("*companions and I*"); 1 Kings

1:21; 2 Chronicles 32:13 (“*father and I*”); Esther 7:4; 9:6-10; Psalm 111:7; Ezekiel 20:12, 20. Original order retained in Judges 12:2.

earth and sky: Genesis 1:1, 18; Haggai 1:6; 2:21. *Heaven and earth* is natural enough; but since we have used *sky* in place of *heaven*, we have reversed the order.

Which of Eden’s trees equals you in size and glory? (Ezekiel 31:1) from *Which of Eden’s trees equals you in glory and size?*

bigger and stronger: Deuteronomy 9:14

my King and God to my God and King: Psalm 84:3

come and go: 1 Samuel 18:13; 29:6

up and down: Isaiah 50:2

sword, famine, and plague vs. other sequences made uniform in 2 Samuel 6:2; 2 Kings 19:15; 1 Chronicles 13:6; Psalm 80:1; Isaiah 37:16

morning and evening (Genesis 1 *seriatim*) rather than evening and morning. In Hebrew reckoning, a day began in the evening. English parlance reflects the custom of starting the twenty-four-hour period in the morning (technically at midnight). In Psalm 55:17, *evening, morning, and noon* changes to *morning, noon, and night*. Note Exodus 16:8, 12.

good and evil from *evil and good*: Leviticus 5:4

flesh and bones from *bones and flesh*: 2 Samuel 5:1; 19:13

head to toe rather than *foot to head*: Deuteronomy 28:35; 2 Samuel 15:25; Isaiah 1:6

day and night from *night and day* (because a day was thought of as beginning at sunset?): 1 Kings 8:29; Jeremiah 14:7

left and right from *right and left*: Exodus 14:22; 1 Kings 7:21; 2 Chronicles 3:17; 23:10; Nehemiah 8:4 (but not 12:31 + 38); Psalm 26:10; 142:4; Proverbs 3:16; Ecclesiastes 10:2; Isaiah 54:3; Jonah 4:11

made and formed from *formed and made*: Isaiah 43:7

rich and poor: Ruth 3:10

just and good from *good and just* (Psalm 25:8)

great and small from *small and great*: 2 Kings 23:1; 1 Chronicles 25:8; 26:13; Job 3:19; Psalm 15:13

shovel and fork becomes *fork and shovel*: Isaiah 30:24;

children and women becomes *women and children*: Esther 8:11.

“*My God*” and “*my Lord*” can sound like interjections, like “*using the Lord’s name in vain*,” like bywords. The whole vocative falls out in Genesis 12:11; Daniel 9:6, 8. In other places, *CV* drops *my*, especially if the vocative starts the sentence (Daniel 10:16; 12:8). In Genesis 44:18; 1 Samuel 1:26; Daniel 4:19 the initial vocative is relocated away from the front of the sentence.

NOTE: English custom of sequence for multiple adjectives ahead of the same noun tends to apply also to the sequence of factors presented aside from that circumstance. For example,

size precedes quality: “big red barn” rather than “red, big barn” (hence the use of commas in the “un-customary” order). The switchover from Hebrew to English custom calls for an unconscious re-ordering of factors beyond what natural, temporal, or logical sequence might call for.

Resequencing to **natural order and English customary order**

CV changes some word orders to fit English custom:

cause to effect: Deuteronomy **16:15** *produce-do* to *do-produce*

turn aside, spend the night, wash feet to turn aside, wash feet, spend the night (Genesis **19:2**);

destroy and subdue to subdue and destroy: Deuteronomy **9:3**;

“*they die for lack of water*” then “*The fish in them stink*”: Isaiah **50:2**;

“*spread the tablecloth and set the table*” from “*set the table and spread the tablecloth*”: Isaiah **21:5**;

“*succeed and build*” becomes “*succeed at building*”: 1 Chronicles **19:3**; **22:11**;

“*dry land*” put after “*separated the water*”: Exodus **14:21**;

take root, sprout, blossom from take root, blossom, sprout: Isaiah **27:6**;

“*tied the money in bags and counted the money*” to “*counted the money and tied it in bags*”: 2 Kings **12:10**;

Joshua **6:26** reverses poetic lines.

re-ordered word sets: “*earth and sky*” rather than “*heaven and earth*,” “*day and night*” vs. “*night and day*,” “*you and I*,” vs. the text’s sequence, “*feet and hands*” becomes “*hands and feet*,” “*life and death*” vs. “*death and life*” (2 Samuel **15:21**), “*land and sea*” vs. “*sea and land*” (Jonah **1:9**).

See also Deuteronomy **9:23, 28**; **11:30**; **33:17**; 2 Chronicles **6:28**; Psalm **17:9**; **144:3**; Isaiah **19:12**; Jeremiah **15:3**; **14:14**; **23:1**; Jonah **3:5**.

Joshua **3:4**: “*Put about 3,000ft^{2,000 cubits} between you and it. Don’t get close to it.*” The sequence becomes “*Don’t get close to it*” then “*Put about 3,000ft^{2,000 cubits} between you and it.*” (general order to specific suggestion)

Obadiah **11**: carry off wealth, enter gates, cast lots for Jerusalem reversed

Jeremiah **32:44**: “*Men will [buy fields for money^{repeat}] call witnesses and sign and seal deeds ~~and call witnesses~~ in Benjamin*” instead of “*sign and seal deeds and call witnesses.*” Calling witnesses would precede the other parts of the transaction (cp. **32:10**).

Daniel **7:11**: “*its body was ~~destroyed and~~ thrown into the flaming fire and destroyed.*”

See also Genesis **1:14**; Leviticus **11:40**; Joshua **6:18**; 2 Samuel **22:9**; Nehemiah **2:6b**; Psalm **71:6**; Isaiah **22:17-19**; **51:22**; Jeremiah **25:34**; **27:1**; **31:34**; **33:26**; Ezekiel **3:10**; **7:3**; **20:39**; **23:35**; **35:10**; **36:33**; Micah **1:13**; **3:3**;

Habakkuk 1:7; some of the pairs in the “there’s a time for” list in Ecclesiastes 3:2-8

Hebrew tends to put the main element first instead of the natural, causal sequence.

Double Entry

In keeping with expansive expression, body-part imagery, and parallelism in both poetry and narrative, the Hebrew text uses several kinds of double entry for synonymous or near synonymous ideas perhaps to emphasize or arrest attention.

(a) Synonymous double entry reduced to one

Judges 20:7 (advice ~~and~~ counsel)
 2 Samuel 7:12 (*“When your days are over ~~and you lie down with your ancestors~~”*)
 2 Kings 9:15 (*“~~leave and~~ escape”*)
 1 Chronicles 21:17 (*“I ~~sinned and~~ did very wickedly”*)
 2 Chronicles 7:19² (*“~~serve and~~ worship”* [though different in scope])
 2 Chronicles 32:16 (*“~~insult and~~ speak against”* **check**)
 2 Chronicles 32:18 (*“~~frighten and~~ terrify”*)
 Hosea 1:10 (*“Israelites . . . you can’t ~~measure/weigh or~~ count”*)
 Psalm 40:16 (*“~~rejoice and~~ be happy”*)
 Jeremiah 15:20 (*“~~saved you and~~ deliver you”* **check**)
 Leviticus 11:13 (*“~~detest and~~ abhor”*); Numbers 14:18 (*“~~iniquity and~~ sin”*);
 Deuteronomy 9:5; 11:2, 4, 6, 16; 12:9, 10, 12; 15:10; 17:1; 18:22; 26:13; 31:21; Joshua
 9:26; 1 Samuel 12:14, 15; 25:26; 1 Kings 13:6; 20:22 (*“observe and see”*); 2 Chronicles
 13:6 (*“~~rose up and~~ rebelled”*); 29:6 (*“~~left and~~ turned back on”*); Nehemiah 4:20; Esther
 4:14; Job 3:5; 6:2; 14:11; 16:4; 18:19; 39:24; Psalm 10:15; 27:2, 9; 32:8; 35:27; 40:5;
 63:5; 70:2; 90:2; 91:7; 119:163; 121:3 (*“~~slumber or~~ sleep”*); 130:2; 144:11; Proverbs
 5:19; 13:5; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Isaiah 1:2; 10:17; 20:3; 27:10; 30:7; 40:30; 44:8; 49:17
 (*“destroyers ~~and~~ devastators”*); 49:26; 53:19; 65: 17; Jeremiah 7:20 (*“anger and
 wrath”*); 9:23; 15:1; 16:18 (*“iniquity and sin”*); 18:11; 23:4; 27:8, 22; 33:8; Ezekiel 13:8
 (*“falsehood and lied”*); 16:3; 18:25; 20:44; 30:23, 26; 33:15; 36:19; Daniel 6:11; 9:16
 (*“~~anger and~~ wrath”*); Daniel 9:3, 17, 18, 23 (*“prayer ~~and~~ supplication”*); Hosea 1:3;
 Joel 2:20 (*“stench ~~and~~ foul-smell”*); Amos 9:19; Zechariah 1:4 (*“~~spoke to and~~
 said”/“told”*); Malachi 2:1 (*“If you don’t ~~listen and~~ take it to heart”*)

Antithetical Double Entry (positive statement plus denial of opposite)

Hebrew idiom has a penchant for affirmation plus denial of opposite. As such, it is one expression of a larger impulse toward parallelism. Proverbs 31:12 illustrates the idea in its familiar description of the ideal wife: *“She’ll do him good and not evil all the days of her life.”* Joshua 1:7 says, ^(a)*“Be careful to do everything in the Law that Moses commanded you;* ^(b)*“don’t turn from it to the right or left”* becomes ⁷*“Make sure you do everything in the Law*

that Moses commanded you.” Jeremiah 32:33 says, “*They’ve turned their back on me, ~~not their face~~*.” See also 1 Kings 2:36; 2 Chronicles 35:21.

(a) reduced to one

Genesis 18:25; 41:23; 42:1; 47:19; Leviticus 22:21; 26:11; Deuteronomy 15:8; 17:11, 15; 20:12, 15; 33:5; Joshua 1:7; 7:19 (“*tell me . . . don’t hide it*”); 1 Samuel 1:11; 6:3 (don’t send it away empty; return a guilt offering); 14:19, 45 (saved Jonathan and he didn’t die); 20:21; 24:1; 1 Kings 3:27; 5:57 (x and not abandon us”); 13:21-22; 22:8, 18; 2 Kings 4:27; 5:3; 10:23; 13:5, 11; 18:6, 32; Job 27:6; Psalm 28:5; 111:8; 118:17; Jeremiah 16:17; 18:17; 42:10; Ezekiel 17:14; 18:21, 28; 24:27; Amos 5:14

(b) hendiadys (two words for one compound referent) expressed by some combined wording
“*bowed and worshiped*” becomes “*bowed in worship*”: Exodus 4:31; 34:8; 2 Chronicles 29:29, 30;

“*deliver them and throw them into confusion*” becomes “*delivered them by throwing them into confusion*”: Deuteronomy 7:23;

“*Job didn’t sin or blame God*” becomes “*Job didn’t sin by blaming God*” (Job 1:22);

“*your harlotry and wickedness*” becomes “*your wicked harlotry*” (Jeremiah 3:2);

“*they’ll die for the treachery ~~and sin~~ they’re committing now*” (Ezekiel 18:24);

“*fell on his face and did homage*” becomes “*fell on his face in homage*” (Daniel 2:46);

“*tremble and be afraid*” become “*tremble in fear*” (Daniel 5:19);

“*to seal up [fulfill?] vision and prophecy*” becomes “*prophetic vision*” (Daniel 9:24);

See also Genesis 18:7; 50:18; Deuteronomy 32:18, 29; Job 1:22.

(c) unnecessarily detailed expression

“*knew his wife and she ~~conceived and~~ bore a son*” becomes “*had relations with his wife and she bore a son*”: Genesis 4:1, etc.;

“*~~reached out and~~ took hold of*”: 2 Samuel 6:6;

“*humbled ~~their heart~~/them with labor*”: Psalm 107:12.

“*You’ll store up for safekeeping, but ~~you won’t preserve it because~~ I’ll deliver most of it to the sword*” (Micah 6:14b)

(d) equivalents to ingressive action

“*~~take and~~ x*”: Genesis 29:23; Deuteronomy 9:17, 21; 1 Samuel 16:23; 25:18; 2 Samuel 4:12; 18:17;

“*~~arise and~~ x*”: Nehemiah 2:20;

“*go ~~and~~ x*”: “*I will go and see him before I die*” becomes “*I’ll go see him before I die*”: (Genesis 45:28), etc.

(e) Sometimes the double entry says the same thing two ways simply for emphasis: “*there’s nothing devious ~~or twisted~~ in it*” (Proverbs 8:8); “*(your words) became a joy ~~and~~*

delight to me” (Jeremiah 15:16; “I’ll cleanse them from their sin against me ~~and pardon their transgression~~” (Jeremiah 33:8); likewise Isaiah 29:14; Amos 5:21, “I despise your festivals; ~~I hate them~~,” Habakkuk 1:5, *et alii*.

(f) Double entry can be a rhetorical device for balance.

(g) In a few examples, the double seems merely to be a customary expression, as in “*eat and drink*,” which we have sometimes reduced simply to “*eat*.” Note also

“*marry and given in marriage*” can reduce simply to “*get married*”; the Hebrew expression probably stems from the custom of two parents arranging a marriage for their offspring instead of the offspring arranging their own marriage.

“*see and hear*” can become “*see*” in some cases:

“*flesh and bones*” means related people; in this case, *CV* lets the expression stand (Genesis 29:14; Judges 9:2; 2 Samuel 5:2; 19:12, 13; 1 Chronicles 10:11; Job 2:5) instead of shifting it to the more familiar “flesh and blood” (cp. Matthew 16:17).

“*fear and trembling*” (Psalm 55:5)

“*day and night*” for “*all the time*,” “*every day*,” continually, characteristically;

“*word and deed*.”

“*from the head to the sole of the foot*” to “*from head to toe*” (Isaiah 1:6)

Idioms for Intensity

Cognate constructions

“*Slew with slaughter*” becomes “*slaughtered*”: Joshua 10:10, 20 both the same?

“*Swear with an oath*” becomes “*solemnly swear*”: Ezekiel 21:23.

Burn with fire means “burn intensely”: Exodus 29:34

Double entry (See earlier in “Hebrew-English Differences.”)

Indirect Discourse Formats

(a) English keeps all the parts of indirect discourse after the start of the clause. Hebrew may put the noun ahead of the beginning and then repeat it with a pronoun inside the clause:

Genesis 1:4: “*God saw the light that it was good*” becomes “*God saw that the light was good*.”

Genesis 6:2: “*The sons of god saw the daughters of men that they were beautiful*” becomes “*The sons of god saw that the daughters of men were beautiful*.”

(b) Direct discourse we have changed to indirect discourse in many places, especially where it can eliminate some level of embedded quotation (one quotation within another). The Hebrew text seems reluctant to use indirect discourse; indirect expression sounds more natural in English and reduces the complexity of longer passages. English speakers prefer indirect discourse over direct quotation when talking about what someone said. The greater use of direct quotation does have the effect of hearing the content in

contrast to hearing about it, so eliminating direct discourse entirely would not be wise. *CV* has adjusted quite many texts into indirect statements as listed below.

Genesis **3:3**, 13, 14; **8:16-17**; **12:12**, 29; **14:23**; **16:13**; **20:5**, 13; **24:7**, 14, 30, 45; **26:7**, 32; **30:8²**; **31:29**, 31, 46; **32:4-5**, 9; **37:14**, 17, 20; **38:22**; **41:55**; **42:4**, 32; **43:3**, 8, 31; **44:32**; **45:9-11**, 17-20; **46:31-34**; **49:4-5**; **50:15-16**;
Exodus **1:22**; **2:10**; **3:13**, 14-17; **4:1**, 21-23, 26; **5:1**, 8, 10-11; **6:9**, 26; **8:1-2**, 5, 16, 21-23; **12:3**; **13:14-16**; **14:3**, 12; **16:9**, 12, 16, 19, 32-33; **18:6**; **19:15**, 23; **20:2**; **21:3**; **31:13-17**; **32:12**, 17; **33:1**, 12; **35:4-5**;
Leviticus **14:17**; **25:20**;
Numbers **8:2**; **10:29**; **11:12**, 13, 21; **14:15-16**; **23:26**; **26:65**;
Deuteronomy **1:28**, 42; **4:10**; **5:30**; **6:20**; **8:17**; **9:23**; **12:30**; **13:12-13**; **15:16**; **17:14**, 16, 19; **19:7**; **22:7**;
Joshua **1:11**; **3:6**; **4:2-3**; **6:6**, 7, 22; **7:12**, 13; **8:6**, 20; **9:9-13**, 22-23; **10:17**; **17:9**; **20:2**; **22:11**, 27; **24:26**;
Judges **3:24**; **4:20**; **6:13**; **7:2**, 3; **8:16**; **9:8**, 10, 12, 14, 48; **12:6**; **13:7**; **16:2**, 12, 15, 20; **18:8**; **20:39**; **21:5**, 18;
Ruth **2:21**; **3:17**; **4:2**, 4;
1 Samuel **4:14**; **9:3**, 11, 23; **11:5**, 9; **13:9**, 12; **14:19**, 34; **15:12**, 18; **16:2**; **18:11**, 25; **19:19**, 22; **20:40**; **22:18**; **23:9**; **24:1**, 4, 9; **25:13**; **29:9**;
2 Samuel **1:16**; **4:10**; **5:2**, 7; **6:10**, 12; **7:27**; **9:1**, 11; **10:15**; **12:13**; **13:5**; **14:7**, 32; **15:26**; **16:3**; **17:10**, 16; **18:4**, 12, 22², 25, 19; **19:9**, 10, 14, 29, 32-34; **20:1**, 5; **22:15**; **24:1**, 12;
1 Kings **1:5**, 6, 13, 17, 24, 30, 44, 51, 52; **2:4**, 8, 9, 29, 39; **8:8**, 9, 19, 29; **12:24**; **13:9**, 16, 18, 27; **14:7**; **18:11**, 14, 30, 31; **19:20**; **21:6**, 23; **22:27**, 30, 32;
2 Kings **1:2**, 6, 9, 11; **2:21**; **3:16**; **4:26**, 43; **5:4**, 11, 22; **6:3**, 15; **7:4**, 12b; **8:7**; **17:12**; **18:25**, 36; **20:17-18**; **21:11-13**; **22:5**, 8, 9; **23:18**;
1 Chronicles **11:2**; **19:5**; **21:11-12**;
2 Chronicles **11:3**; **18:10**, 11, 26, 30; **26:23**; **32:11**; **33:4**; **34:23-28**;
Ezra **5:9**, 15;
Nehemiah **5:12**; **6:9**;
Esther **1:17**; **3:3**;
Job **3:3**; **8:18**; **11:4**; **15:23**; **35:2**; **37:7**;
Psalm **10:4**, 13; **13:4**; **14:1**; **31:31**; **35:3**; **38:16**; **53:1**;
Proverbs **7:4**; **20:25**; **23:7**; **24:2**; **28:24**; **30:16**;
Ecclesiastes **2:2²**; **8:4**, 17;
Isaiah **7:4-6**; **8:19**; **10:29**; **14:13-15**; **19:11**; **27:8**; **36:10**, 21, 72; **37:6**, 9, 10, 33-35; **38:1**; **40:25**, 27; **43:9**; **44:26**, 27, 28; **45:19**; **48:5**, 7, 20; **49:21**; **51:23**; **57:10**; **62:11**;

Jeremiah 1:7; 4:10; 10:19; 11:21; 13:6, 12; 14:13, 15; 15:2, 17; 21:4-7, 8-10; 23:17², 35; 25:27, 28-29; 26:9; 27:16; 28:13-14, 16; 31:34; 32:7, 25; 33:24; 37:9, 13, 14, 16, 19; 38:26; 42:19, 20; 43:2, 10; 45:4; 48:14;
 Ezekiel 12:10-16, 19; 14:17; 18:25; 20:7; 33:8, 21, 25-29; 37:9, 18-19, 21-23; 38:14; Hosea 2:12; Amos 2:12; 7:15, 16; Obadiah 3; Micah 1:11; 2:11; 3:5; Zephaniah 1:12;
 Haggai 1:2; Zechariah 1:19; 4:2; 12:5

- (b) Contemporary English usually leaves out the conjunction that introduces indirect discourse noun clause: “*You know ~~that~~ your father and his men are strong*” (2 Samuel 17:8; recast as “*Your father and his men are strong men.*”).

Specificity for Vividness

An appositive—or a part of a whole joined to the whole—makes a heavier statement that creates vividness, focuses attention, and emphasizes: “*Keep me from **the jaws of the trap** they’ve set for me*” (Psalm 141:9). Those structures CV sometimes reformats into shorter English ones:

“*When **their feet** waded into **the edge of the water***” becomes “*when they waded into the water*” (Joshua 3:15; 4:13); wading covers the feet part of the expression and “*into*” covers “*the edge of*”;

“*like ~~the sin of~~ divination*” (1 Samuel 15:23);

“*by ~~the edge/mouth of~~ the sword*” (Judges 4:15, 16);

~~the people of~~ Israel (Judges 4:23; 10:8; 11:33);

“*gather at ~~the door of~~ the Tent of Meeting*” (Numbers 10:3, etc.);

“*Pardon ~~the iniquity of~~ these people*” (Numbers 14:19);

“*from ~~the power of~~ our enemies*” (1 Samuel 4:3; cp. Psalm 22:20-21; Daniel 6:25);

¹⁸*I’ll leave 7,000 in Israel whose ~~knees~~ haven’t bowed to Baal and whose ~~mouths~~ haven’t kissed him*” (1 Kings 19:18);

“*My eyes have seen and heard*” becomes “*I’ve seen and heard*” (Job 13:1);

“*because it didn’t shut ~~the doors of~~ my mother’s womb*” (Job 3:10);

“*Let the proud step on me,*” instead of “*Let the foot of the proud step on me*” (Psalm 36:11);

“*Give him over to his enemies,*” in place of “*give him over to the desires of his enemies*” (Psalm 41:2);

“*Spoken by the prophets,*” rather than “*spoken by the mouth of the prophets*”;

“*Go near ~~the door of~~ her house*” (Proverbs 5:8);

“*the ~~time of~~ battle*” (Proverbs 21:31; Leviticus 23:43; 24:8; 2 Kings 7:6);

“*~~the sound of~~ melody*” (Isaiah 51:3);

“*the ones that despise you will bow at ~~the soles of~~ your feet*” (Isaiah 60:14);

“*the ~~tents of~~ destroyers prosper*” (Job 12:6);

“*(your words) became a ~~joy and~~ delight to me*” (Jeremiah 15:16);

Write it “~~on the tablet of your heart~~” (Jeremiah 17:1).

“~~thrown out of the gates of Jerusalem~~” (Jeremiah 22:19);

“Obey the Lord,” in place of “obey the voice of the Lord.”

“Toss your bread on the ~~surface of the water~~” (Ecclesiastes 11:1);

“The LORD watches over ~~the way of the godly~~” (Psalm 1:6²).

Note the parallelism in Hosea 13:14:

“Should I ransom him from ~~the power of Sheol~~?

“Should I redeem him from death?

“He’ll eat the ~~meat of the~~ healthy ones and tear off their hoofs” (Zechariah 11:16)

“Put your turbans ~~on your heads~~ and your shoes ~~on your feet~~” becomes “Put on your turbans and your shoes.” (Ezekiel 24:23).

The structure includes phraseology with the body-part imagery (see above):

“No rest for ~~the soles of your feet~~” (Deuteronomy 28:65; cp. 1 Kings 5:3, 4 redone in CV);

“I’ll be with your mouth and his” becomes “I’ll be with you and him” (Exodus 4:16).

“It’s pleasant ~~for the eyes~~ to see the sunrise” (Ecclesiastes 11:7).

See also Psalm 27:12; 55:18; 63:10; Jeremiah 7:34; Ezekiel 2:8.

Partitive Reference

English expects the hearer to recognize partitive reference in obvious cases:

“eat ~~from~~ the fruit of the tree” (Genesis 3:2);

“eat ~~from~~ my game” (Esau to Isaac, Genesis 27:19).

Relative Clause Formats

(a) The redundant pronoun falls out:

“~~the land that you are about to possess~~ #” (Deuteronomy 31:13). The Hebrew ’asher (that, אֲשֶׁר) splices two clauses without occupying a grammatical slot in either one—and so is not really a relative pronoun.

(b) When possessives appear before a clause and there is a duplicating pronoun inside the clause, CV has replaced the possessive with a definite article:

“~~your~~/the inheritance (that) you redeemed” (Deuteronomy 9:26);

“~~my~~/the sacrifices (that) I’ve commanded” (1 Samuel 2:29);

“~~your~~/the people you have chosen” (1 Kings 3:8);

“**his**/the strength he showed” (1 Kings 21:45; 2 Kings 17:15)

“out of ~~my~~/the land I’ve given them” (2 Chronicles 7:20);

“~~your~~/the wonders (that) you did” (Nehemiah 9:17);

“~~their~~/the enemies that want to kill them” (Jeremiah 49:37);

“All ~~their~~/the abominations they committed” (Ezekiel 33:29);

“all ~~his~~/the benefits (that) he’s given” (Psalm 116:12).

See also Genesis **31:18**; **32:13**; Numbers **14:31?**; **22:30**; 1 Samuel **10:19?**; 2 Kings **2:13**; 1 Chronicles **10:13**; **16:12**; Ecclesiastes **9:9**; Ezekiel **13:20**; **16:20**; **18:24**; **35:11**; **45:9**; Daniel **3:17**; **6:16**; **9:10**; **11:4**; Amos **5:26(?)**; Zechariah **11:16**.

Relative Negatives

Relative negatives, also called limited negatives, use both the negative and positive forms of a statement. We have translated as apparently relative negatives what in form are direct opposites. A reader can tell from context and the kind of action involved that the two elements are not real opposites, but real alternatives for different degrees of the same thing.

Genesis **29:30**: “(Jacob) *loved (Rachel) more than Leah*” (lit. “*He loved Rachel from Leah.*”);

Genesis **45:8**: “*It wasn’t so much you as God*”;

The loved wife and the less-loved wife (?): Deuteronomy **21:15-17**;

2 Chronicles **19:6**: “*You’re not just judging for people but for the LORD that’s with you*”;

It’s not so much for your sake that I’m about to act; it’s for my holy name that you’ve profaned in the nations where you went’ (Ezekiel **36:22**).

Hosea **6:6**: “*I want mercy and not sacrifice*” becomes

“*I want mercy more than sacrifice*” (since God actually commanded sacrifice); cp. Jeremiah **7:22-23**; Ezekiel **36:32**.

CV applies the relative negative idiom to the famous text of Jeremiah **7:22-23**, where God says, ²²“*When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, I didn’t speak to them about burnt offerings and sacrifices so much as* ²³*I commanded them, ‘Obey me, and I’ll be your God, and you’ll be my people. Follow the way I command you so things will go well for you.’*” God obviously “spoke to them about burnt offerings and sacrifices” in the same records that chronicle the exodus and wilderness peregrinations. A reader would not expect Jeremiah to be denying that, given all the instructions in Moses regarding that very thing, starting with the Passover lamb while the Israelites were still in Egypt. The more basic point Yahveh wanted was obedience; ritually offering sacrifices to obtain benefit apart from expressing commitment to God and personal righteous living was not obeying in the spirit of why God instituted them. The red-letter addition in *CV*’s wording above nuances Jeremiah **7:22-23** in that direction. As such, Jeremiah’s comment about sacrifices echoes Isaiah’s comments about ritual fasting (**58:3-6**).

Note Exodus **16:8**; 1 Samuel **8:7**; Proverbs **21:3**; Ezekiel **32:36**.

Cp. in *CV* “*loved Jacob and hated Esau*” (Malachi **1:2-3**) as handled by Paul in Romans **9:13**.

Streamlining Causal Distinctions

Hebrew idiom can use the same wording for direct cause, indirect cause, conditional cause, combinational cause, and occasional cause (permission). Translating that idiom into English in a direct-cause format creates misleading impressions, to say the least. In Hebrew, God is even said to do evil: “*all the evil the LORD brought on Job*” (Job 42:11). The same book details how God allowed Satan to do those evils to Job (1:6-2:7). What God allowed he is said to have done: occasional cause in the form of efficient cause. So, in the case of Job 42:11, *CV* reads, “*They consoled him for the misfortunes the LORD had let come on him.*” Some unfortunate turns of events are said to be “*from the LORD,*” a wording we have recast in some places as “*the LORD let x happen*” (1 Kings 12:15; cp. 1 Kings 12:24; Joshua 11:20; Judges 2:14; 14:14; 21:15; Zechariah 11:6). Others like Judges 21:15 have been let stand as worded.

Restating that idiom could be an aspect of second-level translation, but in many cases we have left the first-level wording stand. Changing the wording from efficient cause to occasional cause assumes the translator knows what the case was. Such verdicts should often be left with readers—after being made aware that causal streamlining is a feature of Hebrew idiom. Removing the original wording could interfere with that possibility. In obvious cases, we have changed the wording a from “did” to “let do” (Jeremiah 21:4). Pharaoh’s house steward tells Jacob’s sons how he put their money in their sacks: “*Your God . . . put your treasures in your sacks*” (Genesis 41:16). “*I’ll give you long life*” (Exodus 23:26) comes into English “*and you will have long lives.*” Note also Malachi 1:9, etc. The important point is the fact that causal streamlining happens in Semitic idiom and affects interpretation and translation. The two enterprises are intertwined, but some cases are more difficult to translate because they are more difficult to interpret.

In that light, we have let the presentation stand about God’s bringing Babylon against Judah in judgment. Yet once that judgment had taken place, God saw to it that the Medes and Persians brought judgment on Babylon for that evil against God’s people. The fact that God allowed it did not remove the fact that it was evil, and that God would punish them for it even though it served his purpose (as evil often does):

¹¹“*Sharpen the arrows, fill the quills!*

*The LORD has stirred up the kings of the Medes
to destroy Babylon.*

It’s the LORD’s revenge for his Temple” (Jeremiah 51:11).

Solving that conundrum calls for understanding that God let the Babylonians do what the Babylonians wanted to do anyway. He did so because it served his purpose of disciplining and cleansing Judah; God did not incite the Babylonians to do it. But the evil that Babylon was inclined to do in Israel and elsewhere in the region was itself something subject to divine condemnation. The reader, however, does not get that understanding from the immediate words or context, but from near and distant contextual considerations, including the understanding of Semitic causal idiom.

Translation involves hermeneutics, but translating scripture should not interfere with the theological enterprise that readers must be free to carry on. Not keeping in mind this Semitic mode of expression can lead to conclusions that are not correct about divine operation or worthy of divine character. That is the rationale for highlighting the idiom in these notations.

Some features of Hebrew idiom get covered up by “conversationalizing” the text. *CV* takes away some of the charm of biblical presentation, especially in the poetic portions. That character of the text has been retained in traditional translations, which can be consulted as desired. The presentation here has structured and worded the text to give some poetic flare: balanced construction for parallelism, appropriate cadence for meter, alliteration for (rare) rhyme scheme, and the use of pointed expression,

Vocabulary

We have tried to use familiar equivalencies for measures of length, weight, and volume. Lengths, weights, and measures are somewhat approximate because ancient Middle East units do not closely match modern ones. Relationships between the Hebrew measurements are fairly exact, but finding ways to word the English equivalents is more difficult. Various scholarly sources provide fairly different values. For internal consistency in measurement of volume, *CV* follows G. F. Hill, *Dictionary of the Bible* (Hendrickson Publishers, 1989; James Hasting, ed.), 967-71 even though it yields considerably larger amounts than several more recent versions. The Hebrew terms often appear in the text in superscript so readers can consult other reference works for comparison if exactness is desirable. Such sources should include *BDB (A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament)* by Brown, Driver, and Briggs (based on William Gesenius).

Measures of length are complicated by having royal and common variants. G. F. Hill puts the royal cubit at 20.67 inches and the common one at 17.72, a 16% difference. Ezekiel evidently uses the royal cubit (20:5); so *CV* uses there the royal cubit and other measures of size. The cubit in Solomon’s Temple may have been the royal variant as well. Nevertheless, for simplicity’s sake, *CV* gives the cubit as 1½ feet aside from Ezekiel.

Before the exile, talents, shekels, darics, and minas/minehs/manehs were weights rather than coins (cp. Jeremiah 32:9-10; Ezekiel 4:10, “shekels of food”). *CV* has standardized these weights as 75½ lbs for a talent, .4 oz for a shekel, 185 lbs for a daric, and 20 oz for a maneh (Exodus 38:25-26). See, e.g. *The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary*, 891-92.

Measurements of value present an even more difficult problem because modern inflation constantly alters the correlations, so the transliterated terms appear in the *CV* text.

Genealogy, deference language, arranged marriages, wanton executions, and other matters foreign to modern western culture and taste lie outside the purview of translation work. We have not always interfered with the wordings to “tone them down” or sanitize them verbally. Those behaviors existed in those degrees, so we have “allowed” the *CV* text to report them.

On deferential language, *CV* has reduced the amount of it (a) by dropping its repetition (“*your servant*”: 1 Kings 3:7-9; cp. 1 Samuel 1:16, 18; 12:19). It has altered it (b) by reducing the number of jussive expressions (third-person imperatives) in second-person interchanges, because they have less natural English formats: “*Let him be wet with dew from the sky*” (Daniel 4:23²). In most cases, *CV* has struck a compromise (c) by toning down the deference custom to reduce the foreign feel and moderate the distancing from today’s readership. It replaces the noun or third-

person pronoun in second-person circumstances. It does not leave the literal rendering in adjacent superscript as it might have: “Your ^{Pharaoh’s} *dreams both mean the same thing*” (Genesis 41:25). The superscripted entry could give access to the original sentiment by using the literal rendering—especially in the public reading of scripture. Consequently, *The Conversational Version* sacrifices a degree of verisimilitude to bring modern readers more naturally within the horizon of the biblical content without changing its objective meaning. *The Yahveh Version* retains quite a number of deference expressions. That version is a variant of *The Conversational Version* and uses the personal name of Israel’s God along with a couple of other main features. See the “Introduction to the Yahveh Version” elsewhere on this website.

Terminology About Relatives

The breakdown of Hebrew social division does not come into English cleanly. Ancient and modern cultures structure society differently, so the terms in each do not correspond well. Something of the Jewish social structure shows up when the LORD has Joshua conduct a search for who sinned at the conquest of Jericho. According to *CV*, he had Joshua narrow down the nation down from tribe to family to household to individual (Joshua 7:14-18). The New American Standard Bible has tribe, family, household, individual. *The New Living Translation* uses tribe, clan, family, individual. Things are less clear in free-standing references, which include elders, leaders, heads of tribes (cp. 1 Kings 8:1-2). Translation options become difficult when texts like Ezra 2:1-70 (cp Nehemiah 7:7-73); 8:1-14, and 10:18-44 speak of *sons-of* and *men-of*. *Descendants* for *sons* sounds too distant for the 70-100 years of captivity. *Family* (and *house[hold]*) sounds too small for the large numbers indicated, especially since by custom only men and nuclear family heads were probably counted. Besides, the lists consist of persons and places, and which is which is often unclear. Some person or place names may not appear elsewhere; if they do, their common identity is not evident. So, do we say *residents of*, *people from*, *sons of*, or what? The accompanying numbers give the clearest clue. Nothing major hinges on the choice of terms, but readers need to remember that the structure is ambiguous because it does not correspond to modern western societal structure.

Variety of Expression

With some words that occur frequently, *CV* has substituted several more specific terms to enhance interest by variation: *say*, *tell*, *ask*; *men*, *servant*, *master*, *lord*, *troops*, *soldiers*, *warriors*, *advisers*, *officers*, *officials*, *etc.* See under **Individual Words** toward the end of these introductory notations. *CV* has chosen more specific terms based on context and custom.

Syntactical Placement

English tends to put time words (*today*, *tomorrow*, *yesterday*) after their clause. In many cases, Hebrew puts them in initial position: “*Today, if you hear him*” becomes “*If you hear him today*” (Psalm 95:7). If English uses initial position, it carries more emphasis as a variant from the usual sentence sequence.

Poetic Portions

CV has kept something of the integrity of Semitic poetry by using separate lines for parallelism, its most fundamental feature. That usually means not melting synonymous parallels into one expression to gain economy of expression as has happened in narrative sections. It also means tolerating more repetition in poetry than elsewhere, which includes cases of synthetic parallelism:

“The LORD will have a day of vengeance,

a year of payback for what Edom did to Zion” (Isaiah 34:12; also 13:12; 51:18 MT).

We have paid more attention to cadence (vs. meter) than in non-poetic portions. Cadence serves as a loose substitute for meter, which Hebrew poetry does not have anyway. Balanced construction can assist in creating that poetic feel.

Rhyme scheme does not appear in Hebrew poetry. The closest thing *CV* uses to salve that English expectancy is some initial, medial, and terminal alliterations with same and similar sounds in nearby words: *“He thwarts what the wicked want” (Proverbs 10:3). Rhyme scheme usually applies to the ends of lines whereas alliteration occurs anywhere within the same line.*

Some attention to formatting and layout helps achieve a poetic vs. narrative or didactic appearance. In some sections of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, that includes grouping lines via indentation patterns to help trace topical continuity and distinction.

The difference between Hebrew poetry and narrative or didactic content is not as obvious as what English speakers associate with poetry vs. prose. Readers can verify that point by noting that translations frequently differ in what they present as poetry—by parallel lines rather than continuous text. Non-poetic presentation can approach free verse.

Coordinating vs. subordinating constructions;

Paratactic vs. hypotactic formatting

In comparison to Hebrew, English tends more to subordinate one clause to another (hypotactic) instead of making them grammatically coordinate (paratactic). *CV* sometimes replaces a parallel format with a subordinate one. For one independent clause, the subordinating format can use an adverbial introductory clause introduced by a subordinate conjunction:

“If you listen to what I’m telling you, you’ll be my people, and I’ll be your God” (Jeremiah 11:4). The original more literally reads, “Listen to my voice and do-them according to all that I command you, and you will be to me for a people, and I will be to you for God.”

Esther 6:14 reads, *“The king’s eunuchs arrived and took him to Esther’s banquet.”* *CV* rewords the sentence to say, *“The king’s eunuchs arrived to take him to Esther’s banquet.”*

Personalizing Proverbs

Many Hebrew proverbs come in imperative form, which personalizes them in second person. But in other places, *CV* has changed Hebrew third-person proverbs from that more abstract form into second and sometimes first-person declarative transforms: Proverbs 10:9, 17, 22, 27, 29;

11:4; 12:5, 11; 13:3, 11, 20, 24; 14:2, 6, 11, 27; 15:4, 11, 13, 17, 22, 31, 32; 18:8; 20:25; 21:2, 5, 16; 24:24; 25:7; 26:13; 27:9, 18. Using second person reference also circumvents the problem of inclusive language.

Rhetorical Questions

Speakers sometimes make claims in question form in a way unexpected by English custom. When Saul was trying to locate David, some men came up from Ziph and said to Saul, “*Isn’t David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh on the Hill of Hachilah south of Jeshimon. Come down and do whatever you want to. We’ll surrender him to you*” (2 Samuel 23:19-20). The wording is a form of deference language. See also Deuteronomy 11:30; 1 Samuel 10:1; 24:12; 26:1; 2 Samuel 11:3, 21; 13:28; 15:23², 27; 19:13; 1 Kings 12:16; 2 Kings 5:26; 2 Chronicles 32:11; Psalm 54 heading; Isaiah 29:17. In these case *CV* has shifted the words into declarative sentences.

In 2 Samuel 18:13, *CV* has made a question out of a statement.

CV exhibits a preference for statements in place of questions: Genesis 34:23; Proverbs 8:1; Ezekiel 17:9, 10; Amos 6:13.

Gentilics/Eponyms

The Hebrew Old Testament employs gentilics more frequently than English does. *CV* has moderated their appearance and replaced some *ite*, *ian*, *-i* (Israeli, Pakistani) words with “John of/from y,” “the people of/from y,” or “descendants of x.” Sometimes *Israel* substitutes for *Israelites* (modern *Israelis*), for example. The use of such forms takes fewer words than “people of/from x” and serves as a reason for retaining a majority of them.

Most of the biblical gentilics are straightforward and familiar, but sometimes avoiding the eponym can clarify whether the word designates:

a place of origin: Zorah (Zorathites, 1 Chronicles 4:2),

an ancestor: Abiezer (Abiezrites, Judges 6:11-12; 8:32, 32), Rechab (Rechabites, Jeremiah 35:2),

or even a practitioner: Nazirites, people who took certain vows.

At other times the form of the eponym can obscure the proper name itself: Ahohite < Ahoah, Archevites < Erech, Arkites < Arka, Avvites < Ivvah, Benjamites < Benjamin, Gittite < Gath, Gazites < Gaza, Gibeathite < Gibeah, Hittite < Heth, Hushathite < Hushah, Kenezite < Kenaz, Manassites < Manasseh, Netophathite < Netophah, Shilonite < Shiloh, Suchathites/Sucathites < Soco/Sucah, Tekoite < Tekoa, Tyrians < Tyre. Representative passages are Genesis 23:3, 18; 38:12; Numbers 10:29; Judges 10:3; 11:2; 16:2; 1 Samuel 16:1, 18; 18:19; 23:19; 26:1; 27:3²; 2 Samuel 3:2, 3; 4:3; 6:10; 15:19; 17:27; 18:2; 20:26; 21:1, 2, 8; 23:24-29; 1 Kings 1:3; 11:1; Isaiah 21:13; 37:12; Jeremiah 9:26; 25:21; 27:3; 40:14; 41:10, 15; 49:2; Amos 1:13; Zephaniah 2:9. See also the listing under *Israelites* in the **Individual Words** section below.

Deference Language Reduced

From the standpoint of today's English idiom and culture, the deference language in the Hebrew scriptures seems extreme. To reduce the heavy feel of such recurring expressions,

(a) *CV* has put the deference language in superscript beside less extreme wording.

(b) "My lord" has frequently changed to "sir" when possible (Genesis 18:3; 23:6; 42:10; 43:20; 47:25; Judges 6:13; Ruth 2:13; 1 Samuel 1:15, 26; 25:24; 2 Samuel 14:9; 1 Kings 3:17, 26; 2 Kings 8:12; Daniel 4:19; 10:16; Zechariah 1:9). The frequent "my lord the king" still stands.

(c) The use of third person reference has typically been changed to second person in deference accounts: 1 Kings 1:19, 25.

Behavioral deference has to be left pretty much alone—not making eye contact, the bowing, and even prostration.

Shortening Mechanisms

The idea has been to remove repeated materials and to shorten expressions in a way that does not delete content while getting the reader on through it more efficiently. That aspect of *CV*'s presentation may require clarifications in single-verse citations of scripture, which cuts off context from clarifying pronoun references in contrast to what is necessary in through-reading the text.

Apostrophe *s*

Apostrophe *s* replaces "of" constructions in as many places as practical. (See below "Construct State" under "**Hebrew Ambiguities.**")

Body-Part Language

Body-part language is dropped whenever possible, as in statements like, "*They were guided by the ~~hand of the~~ LORD.*" "*Your ~~ears need to hear what he has to say~~*" (Jeremiah 9:20). Some body-part expressions remain in poetic structures like Proverbs 26:28; the parallelism puts *mouth* parallel to *tongue*. See also Proverbs 4:24; Isaiah 29:13, *etc.* Note observations herein also under "Specificity."

Changing Lines

In dialogue portions, verbal introductions for a replying speaker may fall out, as in "*he answered and said*" (2 Chronicles 18:4-27). The words of the next speaker begin a new line, and the reader can tell by line change, wording, and content who the new speaker is. In oral presentation of such texts, a reader does well to use voice modulation and pauses to express the switch between speakers in the text.

Contractions

Contractions usually shorten the text when made from pronoun subjects plus auxiliary verbs (*He's going*), auxiliary verbs plus negatives (*won't*), some nouns plus third singular *s* in present

tense (“*The LORD’s my shepherd*” (Psalm 23:1), and present perfect tenses (“*The LORD’s been with you*” (Genesis 26:28; 2 Samuel 16:8; Ecclesiastes 3:17). Apostrophe *s* can occasionally cover *does* — (“*What’s it do?*” Ecclesiastes 2:2; Malachi 3:14)

Double Entry

Double entries frequently reduce to single entry. (See above under “**Hebrew-English Differences**”)

Dropping Individual Words and Phrases

Omissions include *behold*, *and* in lists, relative pronouns that are also direct objects in their own clauses (Isaiah 19:16), interjections; repeated possessive adjectives, articles, prepositions, and conjunctions ahead of noun clauses: “*The men said ~~that~~ there hadn’t been any shrine prostitute there*” (Genesis 38:22).

Generalizing Specific Identities

Specificity is a Hebrew idiom. To match English expectancy, words fall out: “obey ~~the voice of~~ the LORD” (Deuteronomy 28:45); “Crush ~~the loins of~~ his adversaries” (33:11); “*The LORD that delivered me from ~~the paw of the/a~~ lion and ~~the/a~~ bear, will deliver me from ~~the hand of~~ this Philistine*” (1 Samuel 17:37); “*let ~~the eyes of~~ their children faint from hunger*” (Job 17:5); “*the ~~souls of the~~ wounded cry out for help*” (Job 24:12); “*he loves ~~the gates of~~ Zion more than other places in Jacob*” (Psalm 87:2). The next ruler “*became king ~~in his place~~*” (2 Kings 24:6, etc.); “*he had relations with his wife, and she ~~conceived and~~ had a son*” (Genesis 4:17; cp. Isaiah 8:3). See also under “**Hebrew-English Differences: Specificity for Vividness.**”

Natural inferences are often omitted; readers know them without being told. Not explicitly saying them engages a reader more, which increases interest and makes for economy of expression.

Reducing Anaphoric Entries

adjectives (Numbers 14:22; 2 Kings 18:12), articles, nouns, pronouns, prepositions. See anaphoric entries above under “**Hebrew-English Differences.**”

Repetitions/Redundancies/Tautologies Omitted

“*Like the LORD commanded Moses*” concludes many scripture portions after a record of his commands to Moses in Exodus and Leviticus. We have often regarded it as a structural feature (bookends), and let it stand as a termination marker.

But “*I’m the LORD*” appears four times in Leviticus 22:2-9; 26:1-13. In such cases, *CV* may reduce the expression to, say, one per paragraph.

“*Enduring love lasts forever*” becomes “*love endures forever*”: Ezra 3:11; 1 Chronicles 16:34, 41; 2 Chronicles 5:13; 7:3, 6; 20:21; Psalm 107:1; 138:8; Jeremiah 33:11.

“~~continually~~ all day long” (Isaiah 52:15)

Reduced Number of Identifications

“Sihon king of Heshbon” in Deuteronomy **2:26** ~~and 2:24~~.

“In the LORD” is reduced from four times to once in Leviticus **22:2-9**; cp. Ezekiel **25:3**.

Four times in six verses, Exodus **33:1-7** identifies Jethro as Moses’ father-in-law.

“Laban his mother’s brother” omitted the next time (Genesis **29:10**); Deuteronomy **2:24**, **26**

“house of the LORD” frequency in 2 Kings **11-12**. See also 1 Kings **8:22 + 54**.

“I’m the LORD your God” reduced to one per paragraph: Leviticus **26:1-13**; Nehemiah **9:4**

Reduced Vocatives

David’s prayer to the LORD after Nathan’s vision has ten vocatives for *LORD* in twelve verses: 2 Samuel **7:18**, **19²**, **20**, **22**, **24**, **25**, **27**, **28**, **29**. *CV* drops all but the first and fourth. Daniel’s supplication in **9:15-19** has nine vocatives in five verses. *CV* reduces them to the first and last. See also 1 Chronicles **22:11**; Psalm **43:4**; Jeremiah **24:3**; Ezekiel **20:44**

Repeated Reminders Reduced to Perhaps One per Paragraph

“the LORD says,” for example, in Leviticus **26:1-3**; 1 Samuel **14:1**, **6**

Some repetitions we have let stand:

repetitions that serve as bookends;

added descriptors may amount to part of the name: Saul of Gibeah, *etc.*

closers: in dividing the land, Numbers **34:1-2** describes the process, then repeats the subject statement at the end in **34:29**;

ones that are part of poetic structure, The elimination of repetition happens more extensively in narrative, didactic, and discourse sections than in poetic texts. The primary feature of Hebrew poetry is parallelism—synonymous, antithetical, synthetic. That sets up similarity as the basic feature of poetry. *CV* has been cautious about eliminating too many such parallels because it cuts into the genius of its poetic literary form.

Shortened Expression

“This is what the LORD says” becomes *“The LORD says”* (2 Kings **20:1**);

“Listen to me” (Genesis **22:8**; 2 Chronicles **13:4**; **20:20**, but not Exodus **18:10**?). See also Deuteronomy **26:16-19**.

“Son of man” in Ezekiel drops out after it appears in the lead sentence of a paragraph: **2:2**; **3:13**; **8:6**, **15**.

Verse Adjustments

Omitted verses and sets of verses

The most extreme form of reduction in *CV* comes from leaving out verse combinations, individual verses, and part verses to move the narrative along. We have indicated larger

omissions by using bracketed verse numbers [#]. Part-verse deletions are not marked. Omitted whole verses and verse combinations include:

Genesis **6:12; 9:16-17; 17:26-27; 23:5, 20; 36:29-30; 41:28, 30; 43:17; 49:32;**
 Exodus **1:13; 8:4; 12:24; 14:29; 30:11, 17, 22; 31:1, 12; 32:3; 36:4, 7; 39:25;**
 Leviticus **6:13; 11:12, 23; 15:21; 18:11, 27; 24:21; 26:43;**
 Numbers **1:19, 54a; 2:1; 4:37, 45; 5:11; 6:8, 17; 7:19-23, 25-29, 31-35, 37-41, 43-47, 49-53, 55-59, 61-65, 67-71, 73-77, 79-83; 8:18; 9:20, 23; 14:32; 16:8; 18:24; 26:56; 29:37-38; 32:31-32;**
 Deuteronomy **4:21; 11:31-32 ; 12:11, 12a, 13, 23-24, 28; 13:18; 14:20; 27:8; 30:10;**
 Joshua **4:17; 10:23; 14:3; 21:8;** Judges **2:23; 3 :2 ; 6 :7 ; 9:16;** Ruth **3:5 ;** 1 Samuel **4:22; 18:14-15;** 2 Samuel **13:33;** 1 Kings **2:30; 15:6;** 2 Kings **17:5-6, 38; 19:5;** 2 Chronicles **27:8;** Ezra **7:8;** Job **3:2;** Isaiah **37:5;** Jeremiah **19:13; 23:1; 27:21; 42:15; 44:24;** Ezekiel **1:21; 10:22; 14:7; 20:14, 16; 22:22; 34:9; 37:24-25; 39:24; 40:41;** Zechariah **14:19.**

Blended Verses

In the effort to shorten or clarify the English text, the recast wording calls for combining parts from different verses. The following are examples:

Genesis **1:29-30; 2:1-2, 11-12; 3:18-19; 7:19-20; 8:13-14; 9:12-13, 16-17; 17:9-10; 21:20-21; 25:9-10; 36:8-9; 44:30-31; 46:6-7; 47:5-6; 50:7-8;**
 Exodus **10:10-11; 17:5-6 ; 26:7-8, 20-21; 28:33-34; 30:7-8, 13-14; 35:25-26; 36:25-26 ;**
 Leviticus **4:1-2; 5:12-13, 14-15 ; 6:24-25; 7:22-23, 28-29; 9:19-20; 11:1-2, 4-6, 10-11; 12:1-2; 15:1-2, 5-6, 22-23; 17:1-2; 18:1-2, 12-14; 19:1-2; 20:1-2, 7-8; 21:16-17; 22:1-2, 17-18; 23:1-2, 9-10, 23-24, 27-28, 40-41; 24:3-4; 25:1-2, 48-49; 27:1-2 ;**
 Numbers **1:22-23, 24-25, 26-27, 28-29, 30-31, 32-33, 34-35, 36-37, 38-39, 40-41, 42-43, 44-46; 2:3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30; 4:38-41; 5:5-6; 6:1-2, 6-7; 9:2-3, 9-10; 14:26-28, 36-37; 15:1-2, 15-16, 17-18, 20-21, 22-23; 26:6-7, 12-14, 15-18, 19-22, 23-25, 26-27, 28-37, 38-41, 42-43, 44-47, 48-50; 28:1-2; 29:20-22, 23-25, 26-28, 29-31, 32-34; 33:50-51; 34:1-2, 14-15; 35:12-13; 35:9-10;**
 Deuteronomy **6:18-19; 12:23-24; 13:12-13; 17:2-4; 21:16-17; 30:1-2;**
 Joshua **18:5-6; 21:41-42;** 1 Samuel **13:20-21; 14:25-26; 25:23-24;** 2 Samuel **7:12-13; 13:37-38;**
 2 Samuel **9:11-13;**
 1 Kings **6:23-26, 31-32; 8:1-2; 11:24-25; 12:32-33;** 2 Kings **12:4-5, 11-12; 14:20-21;**
 1 Chronicles **11:24-25; 17:25-26; 23:10-11; 26:31-32;**
 2 Chronicles **11:5-10; 27:2-3; 32:25-26;**
 Nehemiah **7:6-7; 10:1-8;** Proverbs **26:18-19;**
 Isaiah **7:4-6, 7-9; 10:21-22; 19:23-24; 22:17-19; 35:1-2; 59:15b-16; 65:11-12;**
 Jeremiah **4:11-12; 27:14-15; 34:18-20; 43:4-5, 12-13; 44:29-30;** Lamentations **3:34-36;**
 Ezekiel **1:19-20; 3:5-6; 9:5-6; 16:56-57; 17:22-23; 20:40-41; 22:4-5; 34:8-9, 13-14; 37:1-2; 39:4-5; 47:21-22; 48: 9-10;** Daniel **9:8;** Haggai **2:18-19;** Zechariah **14:17-18.**

Blending usually reduces the length of the entry.

Re-sequenced Verses

Genesis **25:13**, 16, 14, 15, 17; Exodus **21:10-11**, 9; **22:1**, 3b, 4, 2, 3a; Deuteronomy **12:14**, 11, 12b, 12a, 13; Judges **2:11-13**; Esther **9:6-10**

Vocatives Adjusted

Limited to one per set of verses: 1 Samuel **23:20**; Isaiah **26:12**, 16; Psalm **25:4**; **86** several times; Daniel **10:12**

Possessives with vocatives often dropped to accommodate English usage (1 Samuel **1:15**)

That wording seems unnatural as in the Proverbs' verses that say "my son(s)": **1:8**, 10; **2:1**; **3:1**, 11, 21; **4:10**, 20; **5:1**, 7, 20; **6:1**, 20; **7:1**, 24; **8:32**; **23:15**, 19, 26; **24:13**, 21; **27:1**; **31:2a**. See also 2 Samuel **20:9**; **22:7**; 2 Chronicles **29:11**; Ezra **9:10**; Nehemiah **4:4**; **13:14**, 22, 29, 31; Psalm **18:6**; **42:6**; **59:1**; **84:10**; **102:24**.

Vocatives are often moved from the front to later in the address; cp. "*Don't take your guns to town, son.*" That placement seems more natural in English: Proverbs **1:8**, 10; **3:1**; **4:1**, 10, 20; **5:1**, 7; **6:20**; **7:1**, 24; **23:15**, 22; **31:2**; Daniel **10:16**. The later placement removes any tendency for *Lord* or *God* to have a byword sound (Judges **6:15**; Psalm **3:1**). Exceptions to placement change may be in a group of people to single the other person out, or when a long entry accompanies the direct address (Proverbs **3:21**; **5:20**; **6:1**; **24:21**)

Hebrew Ambiguities

Construct State

Nouns in construct state are prolific in the Hebrew text. Words for related referents of almost any kind can be joined by repointing (changing the vowels of) the first noun and (often) placing a *Maqqeph* between them ("head-of the king"). In effect, the adjustments often combine them into one word (like English "in-law/s"). English translation renders construct formats as "*x of y*" because *of*-expressions in English cover about the same range of possibilities as construct state in Hebrew. The English *of* says only that the nouns' referents are related; how their referents relate, the reader infers from context plus experience.

The prominence of construct formats correlates in part with having relatively few adjectives in biblical Hebrew. It accomplishes the adjective-noun combination by using a construct noun plus absolute-state noun. So Hebrew does not need to have as many adjectives.

Eliminating "*of* constructions" means choosing between apposition, description, cause, material, source; value, objective *vs.* subjective, (partitive), possession, and some relationships that are difficult to classify. Not every possible "genitive" value can apply to every instance, but the choice between just two can be challenging. The bail-out is that the ambiguity would probably have been there for the original Hebrew readers too—with perhaps the inference that distinguishing the unclear alternatives was not important to the writer's purpose. In some cases, replacing *of* pushes a

translator into circumlocution, and that can break up cadence and thought flow. Note the following ideas associated with construct form.

material made from: Daniel 2:33 (*“legs of iron”*); *“clothes made out of hair”* (2 Kings 1:8)
 apposition: Isaiah 27:13; 61:3 (*land of Assyria*). See Genesis 47:6; Exodus 13:4; Numbers 2:10-26; 2 Chronicles 7:5; Jeremiah 18:13; Daniel 11:1, *etc.*

content: people of Nineveh

description: 2 Chronicles 6:41 (*“ark of your power”* = *“your powerful ark”*). A construct format replaces adjectives: *“sons of wickedness”* becomes *“wicked people”* (2 Samuel 3:34). See also Numbers 6:18; Psalm 4:1; 18:22; 24:8-10; 32:7; 18:13 (*“coals of fire”* becomes *“burning coals”*); Jeremiah 14:21 (*“throne of your glory”* becomes *“your glorious throne”*); Psalm 24:8, 9², 10 (*“King of glory”* becomes *“glorious King”*); Isaiah 4:8; 22:23; 29:1-; 30:18, 30; 57:4; 54:6; 63:1; 65:16; Daniel 10:11, 19 (*“man of high esteem”* becomes *“a highly esteemed man”*)

object of action: *“knowledge of God”* becomes *“knowledge about God”* (Hosea 4:1); *“abomination of desolation”* becomes *“abomination that makes desolate”* (Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11 as streamlined in Matthew 24:15)

subject of action: as when we say that a tsunami is an *“act of God”*

source: *Jeremiah of Libnah* (2 Kings 23:31); (1 Samuel 11:4 reversed to Gibeah of Saul in 1 Samuel 11:4)

construct strings (concatenations): *“sin of the servants of the God of your fathers”* (Genesis 50:17); likewise, 1 Chronicles 9:4; Ezekiel 10:19. Such arrangements we have tried to break up into “chewable chunks.”

Miscellaneous connections: merely connecting construct nouns:

tabernacle of the testimony (the tabernacle that held the testimony) Numbers 10:11;
 water of impurity (special water that removed ceremonial impurity) Numbers 19:9, 13, 20, 21; 31:23;
 bread of mourning (food others supply us when we are too overwhelmed with grief to prepare our own—Jeremiah 16:7—or eating sparingly from sorrow) Ezekiel 24:22.

We have eliminated many *of*'s by using a different, perhaps more explicit preposition; the translation, admittedly, is more exact than the Hebrew original.

An added ambiguity here is that a Hebrew noun in construct cannot carry the Hebrew article. In the case of מַלְאֲכֵי יְהוָה the translation could perhaps be *an angel of the Lord* or *the angel of the Lord*. The typical translation in, say, Genesis 22:11 says *the angel of the Lord*. The LXX (Septuagint Greek translation of the Old Testament) says, ἄγγελος κυρίου, which could be *an angel of the Lord* in English, but if regarded as a title, could call for English definite articles. The Jewish translators of the LXX evidently had some reason for making *angel* anarthrous here. The LXX does not follow the rule that if the second noun is definite the construct noun is definite as well though not indicated articulary. Perhaps those translators did conceive of the full expression as a title. At

any rate, we are left with an English uncertainty. See also 1 Kings **12:22**, “*a man of God*” (first mention); **13:1**; **17:24**; **20:28**; 2 Kings **1:10**, **12**; **4:9**; 2 Chronicles **25:7**; Jeremiah **35:4** (first mention).

A partial answer to this issue is that the construct noun is definite if the noun it is tied to is definite, including proper nouns. But that is relative definiteness, one in contrast to what the phrase head itself would contrast to; it does not solve definite *vs.* indefinite within the category named by the phrase head—frame of reference.

We opted to use *an angel of the Lord* for ἄγγελος κυρίου and change the expression to *the angel* when articular. Note the phrase “*one like a son of man*” in Daniel **7:13**, Aramaic), equaling a human being. Throughout the gospels it becomes a title “*the Son of Man*,” a self-designation Jesus uses (Matthew **12:8** = Mark **2:28** = Luke **6:5**; John **3:14**, *etc.*), indicating that he is the one in the Daniel reference. From the viewpoint of Daniel, it stands as a descriptor aside from its fulfillment.

No Indefinite Article

Readers must rely on context to distinguish indefinite and kind (*a man* and *human/manly*).

No Separate Intensive Pronoun

“*So I’ll judge you, Israel, each person by ~~their~~/their own behavior*” (Ezekiel **18:30**). “*Let’s make people in our ~~own~~ image*” (Genesis **1:26**). There are some equivalents like “*as for (me), I*”; or “*I even I*” (Isaiah **52:12**). In their vocabulary lists, grammars add *own* to possessive adjectives to clarify reflexive *vs.* personal pronouns, but that format is not always best in a sentence because *own* adds an intensive element on top of the reflexive value.

No Separate Reflexive Pronoun

“*The goodness of the good is on him(self)*” recast as “*A person’s goodness applies to himself*” (Ezekiel **18:20**). See also Numbers **19:19**.

No Neuter Gender

English has sex reference only and makes sexless referents grammatically neuter—at least in modern usage. (Older English would sometimes use “*she*” for ships and countries as perhaps “*containers of*” occupants or residents.) In Hebrew, however, pronouns for Old Testament place names often carry grammatically masculine gender because they are patronymics, named after an ancestral “*father*”: Nehemiah **3:8**; Isaiah **29:2**; Micah **7:10**. English wants to use *it* for many such cases rather than *he*, but *it* does not substitute well in some contexts.

The same principle applies to common nouns. *Wisdom* (חָכְמָה) is grammatically feminine in Hebrew, but English prefers to say *it* rather than *she*:

²⁰ “*Wisdom shouts in the street;*

it/she raises its/her voice in the marketplace.

²¹ *It/She cries out from the top of the wall*

and speaks at the city gate” (Proverbs **1:20**[-33]).

Esther 6:8 quotes Haman as suggesting to King Ahasuerus that if he wants to honor a man, mount him on “*a horse you’ve ridden, one with a royal crest on its head.*” That sounds more likely than honoring the man with a royal crown on his head.

No Capitalization

From the writing, a reader cannot tell a common noun from a proper noun in Hebrew, that is, whether it is considered an identity or the name of an identity, whether it is a noun or a particular noun (proper noun). The problem is complicated by the fact that names often had a meaning based on some feature of their origin (etiology).

CV capitalizes many place names and other designations, supposing they were thought of as identities aside from the meanings the words themselves could have. Attached is a significant list of such places:

Absalom’s Monument (2 Samuel 18:18); Arabah Road (Deuteronomy 2:8); Ark of the Covenant (Numbers 10:33); Ark of the Covenant with its various forms and elaborations; Ark of Testimony (Exodus 30:6), Benjamin Gate (Jeremiah 20:2); Beth-eked of the Shepherds (2 Kings 12:10); Beyond the River (1 Kings 8:65; 2 Kings 24:7; 2 Chronicles 7:8), The Bread of Presence (Exodus 25:30); Brook Besor (1 Samuel 30:21); Cave of Machpelah (Genesis 23:9; The City of David (2 Samuel 5:7); City of Palms (2 Chronicles 28:15); City of Salt (Joshua 15:62); City of Truth (Zechariah 8:3), The Diviner’s Oak (Judges 9:37); Dung Gate (Nehemiah 2:13); Feast of Booths (Deuteronomy 31:11); Forest of Ephraim (2 Samuel 18:6); Foundation Gate (2 Chronicles 23:5); the Glorious Land (Daniel 11:41); the Glory of Israel (1 Samuel 18:29); the Great Sea (Daniel 7:2); Hall of Judgment (1 Kings 7:7); Hall of Pillars (1 Kings 7:6); Hall of the Throne (1 Kings 7:7); Hill of Hachilah (1 Samuel 26:1); Hill of Moreh (Judges 7:1), Holy Place (Exodus 8:28), Kidron Valley (2 Chronicles 29:16; King’s Valley (2 Samuel 18:18); Kishon River (1 Kings 18:40); Law (of Moses, Deuteronomy 4:4); The LORD Enthroned above the Cherubs (1 Chronicles 13:6); Mercy Seat (Leviticus 16:2); the Name (Leviticus 24:11); Oak of Moreh (Genesis 12:6); Oak of Tabor (1 Samuel 10:3); Oak of the Pillar (Judges 9:6); Oaks of Mamre (Genesis 13:18; 14:13; 18:1); Orchard of Eden (+Ezekiel 36:35; Joel 2:3); The Palace of the Forest of Lebanon (1 Kings 7:2; 10:17, 18; Isaiah 22:8), Palm of Deborah (Judges 4:5), the Pit (= Sheol), Plain of Dura (Daniel 3:10); Plain of Moab (Numbers 36:13); Plain of Ono (Nehemiah 6:2); Potsherd Gate (Jeremiah 19:2); River of Egypt (Genesis 15:18; Numbers 34:5; Joshua 15:4, 47 rather than the brook of Egypt), Rock of Escape (1 Samuel 24:28); Rock of Oreb (+Judges 7:25; Isaiah 10:26); Rock of Rimmon (Judges 20:45); Second Quarter (Zephaniah 1:10); Solomon’s officials (1 Kings 4:1-19), Tabernacle, Temple (when designating the LORD’s Temple), Tent of Meeting (Exodus 27:21), the Testimony (Exodus 30:36), Tower of Eder (Genesis 35:21); Tower of Hananel (Nehemiah 3:1); Tower of a Hundred (Nehemiah 3:1); Ulai Canal (Daniel 8:2); Valley of Beracah (2 Chronicles 20:26); Valley of Jezreel (Hosea 1:5); Valley of Salt (2 Samuel 8:13); Valley of Sorek (Judges 16:4); Valley of Succoth (Psalm 60:6); Well of Sirah (2 Samuel 3:26); Wilderness of

Damascus (1 Kings **13:15**); Wilderness of Edom (2 Kings **3:8**); Wilderness of Engedi (1 Samuel **24:1**); Wilderness of Jeruel (2 Chronicles **19:16**); Wilderness of Maon (1 Samuel **24:24**); Wilderness of Paran (1 Samuel **25:1**); Wilderness of Sinai (Exodus **19:1**); Winepress of Zeeb (Judges **7:25**); Wilderness of Zin (+Deuteronomy **32:51**; Numbers **13:21**; **20:1**; **27:14**; **33:36**; **34:3**; Joshua **15:1**); Wilderness of Ziph (1 Samuel **26:2**).

God/god usually renders אֱלֹהִים. Translators customarily capitalize it for the one true God and use lower case for foreign deities or people that are “powerful ones,” which can take the term back to descendants as “sons of”; judges are called “gods” in Psalm **82:6**. “*Sons of God*” has non-deific reference in Job **1:6**; **2:1** (angelic beings?). One reference (“*sons of God*”) probably means powerful human leaders in Genesis **6:1-4**, and looks at the degrading royal practice of amassing large harems that then supplied kingdoms with “powerful ones” via offspring.

Spirit/spirit is capitalized in reference to deity but left in lower case otherwise—when it carries its underlying meaning. Other usages of *spirit* include wind, a human aspect or capacity, (human) disposition, angels, breath. Contexts do not always solve the question. Ezekiel **36:27** says, “*I’ll put my S/spirit in you.*” Does that mean what Christians call “*God’s indwelling presence*” and therefore deific, or is it a looser reference to an “*attitude*” derived from influence from God the Spirit? Does Genesis **1:2** mean “*the Spirit of God was moving over the surface/“face” of the water*” (in anticipation of God’s upcoming involvement in the creative process), or does it mean “*God’s wind was blowing gently over the ocean*”?

Job **31:33** could say as the NASB words it in its main text, “*Have I covered my transgressions like Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom*” with “*mankind*” for “*Adam*” in the margin. CV has taken the author’s intension more broadly, “*Have I covered up my sins like people do by hiding my iniquity in my heart?*”

The Assyrian (and Babylonian) names/posts in 2 Kings **18**, Isaiah **20**, and Jeremiah **39** we do not understand well, so capitalization is a moot point with some. In 2 Kings **18:17**, CV has treated *tartan*, *rabsaris*, and *rabshakeh* (plus *rabmag*) as Assyrian military designations instead of proper names and so does not capitalize them. They appear in the text respectively as *commander-in-chief*^{*tartan*}, *field commander*^{*rabsaris*}, and *chief officer*^{*rabshakeh*}. The last designation appears also in 2 Kings **18:19**, **26**, **28**, **37**; **19:4**, **8** and in Isaiah **36:2**, **4**, **11**, **22**; **37:4**, **8**, (**9**, he). The word *tartan*, a military post, also appears in Isaiah **20:1**;

rabsaris appears as well in Jeremiah **39:3a**;

rabsaris appears as *field commander* in Jeremiah **39:3** and **13**;

rabmag is a military post in Jeremiah **39:3**;

Nergal-sherezer appears as a military position in Jeremiah **39:3b** and **13**;

Shamgar-nebo is entered as a name in Jeremiah **39:3**;

sarsekim is taken as a descriptor, the king’s advisor, in Jeremiah **39:3**.

Punctuation and Accidence Considerations

The original Hebrew Old Testament text was consonantal (*abjad*); that is, it had “consonants only.” In the (sixth to) eleventh century A.D., the Jewish Masoretes added “points” to indicate vowel sounds and diacritical markings to show how to pronounce and phrase the text at a time when Hebrew was becoming less well-known in the Jewish masses. Many diacritical marks are conjunctive and disjunctive symbols that show how words are to be “joined to” or “disjoined from” other words. Their effect is something akin to punctuation, but they do not match up very well with English mechanics. Besides, they are not part of the original inspired/canonical text. So, we have added a few notations about how that affects our punctuation choices, because they largely come at a translator’s discretion.

no comma; no way to distinguish restrictive from non-restrictive clause modifiers grammatically: Exodus 4:26

no dash; supplied for asides, for long entries before the main part of a sentence, and for pendens constructions: Deuteronomy 30:1-3; Judges 17:1-2; 1 Samuel 30:31; 2 Samuel 2:9; 11:21; Isaiah 33:15-16

no exclamation mark; In one place we have supplied a double exclamation mark to indicate a prophet’s insincere directive to attack: “*Micaiah answered him, ‘Go right on up there! The LORD’s going to deliver it to you!!’*” (1 Kings 22:15).

no parenthesis; supplied for apparent textual asides, the original author’s explanatory comments, or perhaps later redactors’ additions.

no brackets; supplied in *CV* for a few translator’s additions like the [*El-Shaddai*] entries: Genesis 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; 43:14; 48:3; Exodus 6:3*. In a few cases, we have added our own brackets of explanations within the text: Ecclesiastes 12:3-4.

no quotation marks; a reader can tell from sentence flow where direct discourse begins, but where it closes can be unclear: Genesis 26:28-29; Exodus 3:15; Job 10:2 or 18 or 19 or 22? Isaiah 40:7-8?; Jeremiah 5:13a or b? Habakkuk 2:3 or 8?

In 2 Samuel 7, does the direct imbedded quotation starting at 7:8 stop at 11a and pick back up at 12-16, or does it continue through 16? If the quotation goes 8-16, then 11b is an example of discontinuity of person, a frequent occurrence in Old Testament texts. But without quotation marks, the structure does not come through clearly. Note also 2 Samuel 14:17; Isaiah 42:4 or 7, or 9?; Jeremiah 20:7-10 or 7-12? Ezekiel 6:11a or 12c?

no bold-face print; supplied to indicate emphasis, draw attention to recurring elements

no underlining; supplied for emphasizing or drawing attention to connections in the text. Verbal equivalency of underlining happens in Deuteronomy 9:4; Isaiah 52:12 (“*I even I*”); the “*as for me*” expression can be handled by underlining *I*.

Underlining draws attention to lists or aids in proper reading for clarity by showing where contrast lies. Underlining for clarity also draws attention to a list spread across a context.

Word division does not often create a problem in the Old Testament because, unlike first-century Greek used in the New Testament, Hebrew spaced between words. In Proverbs 30:1b the Masoretic text can be divided to read “*I’m weary, God; I’m weary and worn out, God*” or “*This man declared to Ithiel, to Ithiel and to Ucal.*”

Hebrew's Verb System

Hebrew verbs have two “tenses,” completed and uncompleted action. They roughly correspond to past and future, but finer distinctions within “past” and “future” must be inferred from context and experience rather than from verb form, and must be expressed according to English custom of usage. Two or three finer distinctions may make sense. (Participles cover present tense or timeless action.) These “tenses” do not mean all the possible nuances within each category in each instance; they “cover for” situations where such variants could be present without being expressible by variant verb forms. English speakers looking at the perfect and imperfect occurrences want to specialize the usages into what English custom wants to say in those circumstances.

Perfect tense covers for the following:

simple past (went): “*In the beginning God created earth and sky*” (Genesis 1:1);

characteristic past (would go): “*He’d go to Gibeon to sacrifice*” (1 King 3:4);

progressive past (was going): “*Pharaoh dreamed he was standing by the Nile*” (Genesis 41:1; cp. 2 Chronicles 18:11; 23:13; Daniel 6:14?);

ingressive/inchoative perfect (began to go): “*Hagar started disrespecting her mistress*” (Genesis 16:4, 5; cp. 41:2; 42:1; Joshua 5:11; Judges 10:8; 15:19; 2 Chronicles 32:23; Ecclesiastes 1:17; Joshua 5:11; Daniel 6:10; 8:15);

used to (go): “*We used to eat free in Egypt*” (Numbers 11:5);

kept (going): “*He kept urging Esau*” (Genesis 33:11); “*Absalom kept urging David*” (2 Samuel 13:27);

emphatic past (did go): “*We really did come down to buy food*” (Genesis 43:26); “*You do see trouble and distress*” (Psalm 10:14);

present perfect (have gone): “*My brothers . . . have arrived*” (Genesis 46:31);

stative perfect (had them x): Elijah . . . “*had the Baal prophets killed*” (1 Kings 18:40);

past perfect/pluperfect (had gone): “*which Abraham had bought from Ephron*” (Genesis 50:13); cp. Exodus 11:9; 2 Kings 9:14, 29; Isaiah 38:21, 22

conative past (tried to go): “*You’re trying to destroy a city*” (2 Samuel 20:19); cp. Genesis 37:35; 39:19; Exodus 2:15; 8:18; Deuteronomy 13:10; 1 Samuel 17:39; 19:10; 2 Samuel 21:5; 1 Kings 11:40; Ezra 4:4; Nehemiah 4:5; Esther 2:21; 3:6; 6:2; 9:2; Job 31:5; Psalm 40:5; 54:3; 73:16; 78:36; Psalm 119:42; Proverbs 10:24; 12:21; 23:4; Ecclesiastes 2:3; Isaiah 22:3; Jeremiah 2:3; 6:14?; 26:21; 51:9; Daniel 6:4, 14; Micah 5:6; Zechariah 12:3; Malachi 2:12?);

prophetic perfect, where a future event is treated as so certain that it is worded as having happened: Genesis 15:19; 35:12; Numbers 21:34; Deuteronomy 3:2; Joshua 1:3; 2:9; 6:2; 5:16; 8:1; 10:19; Judges 1:2; 3:28; 4:14; 7:9, 14, 15; 18:10; 1 Samuel 14:10, 12; 23:4; 2 Samuel 5:24?; 1 Kings 3:12, 13; Isaiah 15:1-4; 34:2; Ezekiel 32:20.

Adjustments like those above can color the text in perhaps unintended ways. 1 Samuel 1:3 has David saying to the man that reported Saul’s death, “*Where have you come from?*” The

same question in Job 1:7; 2:2, *CV* renders, “Where’d you come from?” So worded, it implies Satan did not particularly belong there.

Imperfect tense covers for the following:

simple future (will go), “Many women . . . will carry out judgments on you” (Ezekiel 16:41); progressive future (will be going), “Everyone is accursed that does not continue to obey everything” (Deuteronomy 27:26, imperfect hiphil);

future perfect (will have gone); “God will have gone out ahead of you” (1 Chronicles 14:15; see also Zephania 3:11);

conative future (will try to go): “Any prophet will die that tries to speak in my name” (Deuteronomy 18:20; Psalm 4:2; Zechariah 13:3);

emphatic future (will go): “Whatever I say will happen soon” (Ezekiel 12:28?);

tendential future: “The fears of the wicked tend to be fulfilled” (Proverbs 10:24; cp. 12:21). Many proverbs could have the “tend to” auxiliary added by virtue of the nature of what a proverb is: a generality or tendency to be remembered instead of a prediction or uniform promise.

imperative future (the Ten Commandments; frequent, as in Genesis 17:10, 12; 21:30; 2 Chronicles 19:9). Everyday English rarely uses it now. If it does, it carries emphasis—as in the example. “You will stay home this evening, Johnnie” gets restated with the future command form “going to ___”: “You are too going to stay home this evening.” *CV* typically renders as command forms what are apparently imperatival futures.

No Vowels

Vowel points and *matres lectionis* were added to the original consonantal Hebrew text. The first set indicates vowel sounds; the second set was an early use of some consonants to indicate a few of the vowel sounds (ה ו י א). That lack of pointing famously comes up in discussing the meaning of Genesis 1:1-2. Does it read, “In the beginning, God created earth and sky, and the earth was . . . ” (cp. LXX)? Or does it mean, “In the beginning of God’s creating earth and sky, (that) the earth was . . . ” (cp. TEV, 1976).

Having no written Hebrew vowels may explain variant spellings of some names: Joshua’s father (*Nun* in Joshua 1:1, etc., but *Non* in 1 Chronicles 7:27); *Hiram* (1 Kings 5:18) and *Huram* (2 Chronicles 2:2) as well as *Malcom/Milcom* (Jeremiah 49:1, 3; 1 Kings 11:8), *Addan/Addon* (Nehemiah 7:61; Ezra 2:59), and a host of other examples.

Smaller Biblical Hebrew Vocabulary

A smaller vocabulary calls for some words to cover a wider range of meaning than the closest English word: *river-stream-creek-canal-wadi* (intermittent flow), *prophecy/prophecy-predict-exhort-speak-for-another(-act in a vigorous manner?)*, *fear-respect*, *heal-[general remedy physically, politically, ceremonially, morally]*, *father-ancestor/originator*, *God/god-[powerful ones-leaders-judges]*, *son-descendant-[one like something]-[one-derived from something]*. *Spirit/spirit-wind*, *ground-dirt-region-world*, *ocean-sea-lake-pond-lagoon*—to name some prominent ones.

Hebrew compensates for its smaller vocabulary by circumlocutions, as do all languages when they lack a precise term for a precise point. All languages suffice for the communication needs within their culture, so there is no implication here that one language is better than another—as if English were better than Hebrew. In the case of the Old Testament, the hearer-reader must rely on context and the nature of the case to express its intended meaning in English. The original readers would have done the same thing in interpretation as we have to do in translation.

Textual Variants

Many textual differences exist between the standardized Masoretic Hebrew text and the Septuagint Greek text (LXX), the Syriac, the Samaritan Pentateuch, and individual manuscripts of various books. A few especially significant variants are the following:

Psalm 40:6: “*You pierced/opened my ears*” (MT) vs. “*You gave me a body*” (LXX); note Hebrews 10:5 < LXX.

Also note in 2 Chronicles 25:28: *CV* has *David* instead of *Judah* to agree with the more likely reading in 2 Kings 14:20, “*The City of David.*”

Omission of the Linking Verb

“*Your throne (is) God*” or “*Your throne, O God,*” said of the Son according to Hebrew 1:8 < Psalm 45:6 (45:7 in the Hebrew text); hence, an affirmation of the deity of the Son in the New Testament, while the original Hebrew is technically ambiguous because its verb is unexpressed. (Vocative and predicate nominative form would be the same.) Cp. in contrast the force of **היה** in Exodus 3:14 vs. its lack in Exodus 3:6 and how that point plays out in Jesus’ argument from 3:6 against the Sadducees (Matthew 22:31-33; Mark 12:26-27; Luke 20:37-39: “is” of identity vs. time).

Elative for Superlative

In Jeremiah 25:32, *CV* has worded the text as elative rather than superlative because the Babylonian empire, though distant, was not the “most distant” area to the north, as the text is often translated: *a great storm is brewing from the very remote parts of the earth.*

Mechanics in Written English

Abbreviations

measurements (without a period and sometimes without a space before the unit: ft, in; see Exodus 25:10, 23; 26:13; Ezekiel 40-48, *etc.*)

Bold Type

book titles (all caps)

listings

the plagues in Egypt: Exodus 6:8-11:10

David’s mighty men: 2 Samuel 23:8-39

the judges during the judgeship period: Judges **3:9** (Othniel), **15** (Ehud), **31** (Shamgar); **4:4** (Deborah), **6** (Barak); **6:11** (Gideon), **10:1** (Tola), **3** (Jair); **11:1** (Jephthah); **12:1** (Ibzan), **11** (Elon), **13** (Abdon); **13:24** (Samson); 1 Samuel **3:19** (Samuel).

dated prophecies and major chronological notations within narratives

Genesis **7:11, 17; 8:3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 14**; Exodus **12:41; 16:1; 19:1; 40:1**; Numbers **9:1; 10:11; 33:38**; Deuteronomy **1:3**; 1 Kings **6:1, 37, 38; 14:25; 15:1, 9, 25, 33; 16:8, 10, 15, 29; 22:2, 41, 51**; 2 Kings **1:17; 3:1; 8:16, 25; 9:29; 11:4; 12:1, 6; 13:1, 10; 14:1, 23; 15:1, 8, 13, 23, 27, 32; 16:1; 17:1, 6; 18:1, 9, 10, 13; 24:12; 25:1, 2, 3, 8, 25, 27**; 2 Chronicles **3:2; 7:10; 12:1; 13:1; 15:10; 16:1, 12; 17:7; 29:3, 17; 34:3, 8; 36:22 = Ezra 1:1; 3:3, 6, 8; 4:23; 5:13; 6:3, 15, 19; 7:1, 9; 10:0, 16, 17**; Nehemiah **1:1, 2; 6:15; 8:1, 14; 9:1; 13:6**; Esther **1:1; 2:16; 3:7, 12, 13; 9:1, 14, 17, 21**; Isaiah **7:1; 14:28; 36:1**; Jeremiah **1:2-3; 25:1, 3; 27:1; 28:1; 32:1; 34:1, 8; 35:1; 36:1, 9; 39:1, 2; 41:1; 45:1; 46:2; 51:59; 52:4, 6, 12, 31**; Ezekiel **1:1-2; 8:1; 20:1; 24:1; 26:1; 29:1, 17; 30:20; 31:1; 32:1, 17; 33:21**; Daniel **1:1, 21; 2:1; 7:1; 8:1; 9:1; 10:1**; Hosea **1:1**; Amos **1:1**; Micah **1:1**; Zephaniah **1:1**; Haggai **1:1, 15; 2:1, 18, 20**; Zechariah **1:1, 7; 7:1**

genealogical entries (to highlight or connect with a recurrent name; indentation maps extensive genealogical listing to help the eye trace through the listing). Genealogical interest lay in its being the basis for inheriting land and possessions, the offices of priest and king, tracing strictures on descendants of certain ancestors like an illegitimate son: a Moabite or Ammonite could not enter the LORD's assembly for ten generations (Deuteronomy **23:2-3**), and an Edomite for three (Deuteronomy **23:8**; Amalekite as well). Citizenship was conferred automatically by lineage unless deliberate action took place to the contrary ("*The older will serve the younger*" in the case of Jacob and Esau).

headings sometimes: added topical labels supplied to aid navigating through complex material

chapter numbers (enlarged);

verse numbers (superscripted),

repeated content in nearby entries: Exodus **29:13-34** repeats; Numbers **24:3-4 = 15-16**;

Deuteronomy **27:15-26** repeats; 1 Kings **19:10 = 14; 36:22-23 = Ezra 1:1-3**; Job **1:1 = 8 = 2:3**; Psalm **8:1 = 9** bookends; **18:20 = 24; ; 24:7-8a = 9-10a; 42:3, 5 = 10b-11 and 43:5; 46:7 = 11; 62:2 = 6; 67:3 = 5; 80:3 = 7 = 19; 103:1a = 2a; 20a = 21a = 22a; 104:1 = 35b** bookends; **104:35 = 105:45 = 106:1 = 48** bookends [Hallelujahs]; **107:6, 8 = 13, 15 = 19, 21 = 21 = 28; 111:1 = 112:1 = 113:1 = 9 = 115:9 = 10 = 11; 111:4 = 112:3 = 9 = 115:18 = 116:18 = 117:2; 115:9 = 10 = 11 = 118:1 = 2 = 3 = 4; 118:1b, 2b, 3b, 4b = 20b; 119:154b = 156b = 159b; 135:1 = 21** bookends [Hallelujah]; **118:10 = 11 = 12 = 29; 119:154 = 156 = 159; 135:135; 135:19² = 20² = 21; 136** (antiphonal 1 per verse); **146:10 = 147:1 = 20 = 148:1 = 14 = 149:1 = 10 = 150:1 = 6**

bookends; Song of Solomon 4:9 = 10 = 12 = 5:1 = 2 ("my sister, my bride"); Isaiah 2:10 = 19 = 21; 5:25 = 9:12 = 17 = 21 = 10:4; 18:2 = 7; 28:10 = 13; 44:6 = 45:5 = 6 = 14 = 18 + 21² = 22 = 46:9; Jeremiah 6:12-15 = 8:10-12; 49:19-20 = 50:44-45; 51:11b = 12b; Ezekiel 18:9 = 17; 19:3 = 6; 24:6 = 9; Daniel 4:15-17 = 24, 25-26 = 32; Amos 1:3-4 = 6-7 = 9-10 = 11-12 = 13-14 = 2:1-2 = 3-5; 4:6b = 8b = 9b = 10b = 11b; 7:2-3 = 5-6.

What appear to be bookends or markers are often left in place as stylistic literary form: Genesis 17:19 + 21; 24:12 + 14 ("master"); Numbers 1:2-16; 2 Chronicles 33:2 + 9 bookends;

Southern Kingdom rulers after the Northern Kingdom begins

Northern Kingdom rulers have underlining. The narratives move back and forth between the two kingdoms, and some names occur in both king lists.

types of offerings: Leviticus 2:1; 3:1; 4:3

Brackets

omitted verses: [#] (or [/#] in direct discourse)

translator's explanatory additions as in name meanings not supplied in the original:

Genesis 35:11: God Almighty [*El-shaddai*]

Exodus 17:15: The LORD Is My Banner [*Yahveh-nissi*]

Jeremiah 32:18: The LORD of Hosts [*Yahveh-Tsivaot*]

Jeremiah 33:16: The LORD Is Our Goodness [*Yahveh-Tsidekenu*]

Ezekiel 48:35: The LORD Is There [*Yahveh-shammah*]

Capitalization (American rather than British spelling when they differ)

LORD in all capitals covers for God's personal name, the Tetragrammaton (יהוה, vocalized something like "Yahveh" in modern Hebrew pronunciation). The name not to be used as a byword became the ineffable name at least a couple hundred years before the Christian Era. The Hebrew vowel points for Lord replace it in the *Qere*, the reading actually said out loud. In cases where the Hebrew word for "Lord" (אֲדֹנָי) happens to appear in front of the Tetragrammaton in the *Kitib* (what is written) the *Qere* becomes "Lord GOD." In written form, the vowel points for "God" (אֱלֹהִים) are attached to the Tetragrammaton to remind the reader to say "*Lord GOD*." That avoids saying in Hebrew "*the Lord LORD*." We have followed English convention in writing LORD (caps) for the more usual circumstance and "*Lord GOD*" (capital and lower capital + all caps) for the second. The vowel points of אֱלֹהִים applied to the Tetragrammaton יהוה lie behind the blended "non-word" *Jehovah* that has become popular over the years in certain circumstances. That term does not appear in *CV*. *The Yahveh Covenant* is a form of the Old Testament that reproduces the Old Testament part of *The Conversational Version*, but allows the personal name of God stand in the text (found also on the *christir.org* website).

Nouns referring to deity are not capitalized unless they are used as proper nouns: not for “the creator,” “the angel of the LORD” (despite accompanying deific descriptors in some passages).

Nouns understood in the New Testament as referring to the Messiah and then taken as deific references are not necessarily capitalized in the Old Testament text cited (where they still look forward without fulfillment to clarify: *associate* (Zechariah 13:7); *branch* (Isaiah 4:2; 11:1; 60:21?; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15), *King* (Psalm 2:6); *Ruler* (Micah 5:2); *servant* (52:13; 53:11); *shepherd* (Ezekiel 34:23-24; Zechariah 13:7;); *son* (Psalm 2:7, 12); *stone* (Psalm 118:22); *cornerstone* (Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 28:16); *Messiah/Anointed One* (Psalm 2:2); *Messiah* (capitalized in Daniel 9:25-26 as an obvious proper name); capitalized in reference to God in Psalm 80:1; Ecclesiastes 12:11). Those terms have also not usually been capitalized in the New Testament part of *The Conversational Version*.

Pronouns that refer to the Judaeo-Christian deity are not capitalized, as per contemporary English practice. Previous custom often capitalized even indefinite, relative, indefinite relative, intensive, and reflexive pronouns along with personal pronouns. But we have capitalized the indefinite pronoun *One* for clarity’s sake.

place designations taken as proper nouns. See list under “Hebrew Ambiguities” above.

spirit capitalized in reference to deity; otherwise, lower case. The choice represents a translator’s judgment call. See *supra* under **Hebrew Ambiguities** and *spirit* below under **Individual Words**.

Colon

used before long direct quotations or in phraseology meaning “that is.”

Comma

for non-restrictive clauses. Restrictive clauses are not set off with commas in modern English.

used ahead of shorter direct discourse

used ahead of appositional *or* (Ezekiel 45:14)

used the serial comma/Oxford comma, that is, a comma between the last two items in a list with or without *and*: Malachi 3:5. *CV* often omits *and* between the last two entries of lists; the effect implies the representative rather than complete nature of the listing.

reduced usage around appositives, especially if class precedes particular: *his father Kish* vs. *Kish, his father*. When class precedes particular, it has the feel of an adjective, and so does not seem to require a comma to separate the two. Like class, adjectives are typically broader than the particulars they modify. Most times in the format “x son-of y” *CV* has not added the comma of apposition because of the custom of using *son-of* as if it were a double name. David son of Jesse in the Yahveh adaptation, for example, becomes David Ben-Jesse. Cp Simon Bar-Jonah (John 1:42). A similar construction appears with “x of y”: Gibeah of Saul (1 Samuel 11:4).

not used between clauses if the subjects are the same—unless the clauses are long or have internal *and*'s that blur the grouping of the words (Leviticus 7:34). Conversely, we have used commas between clauses with different subjects unless they are especially short.

Contractions (see supra **Changes in Modern English**)

Dashes (reduced usage to eliminate several pendens constructions)

Genesis 2:19, *etc.*

used with an aposiopeses in Genesis 3:22

left in several other places: Genesis 3:22; 24:14; Leviticus 24:4; Numbers 2:1-31; 2 Samuel 21:5; Proverbs 6:10; Isaiah 56:4-5; Amos 5:8

Ellipses: used in Genesis 3:22; 27:33; and Jeremiah 44:26; Amos 6:10

Exclamation Mark

supplied at translator's discretion

Hyphens

The Conversational Version hyphenates all *En-* ["fountain/spring"] names (except for Enaim/Enam): En-harod (Judges 7:1), En-dor, En-eglaim, En-gannim, En-gedi, En-haddah, En-hakkore, En-hazor, En-mishpat, En-rimmon, En-rogel (vs. Enrogel), En-shemesh, and En-tappuah.

CV hyphenates all the *Beth-* names ["house of"] (except for Bethel and Bethlehem by convention), especially because they otherwise get rather long: Beth-abara, Beth-anath, Beth-anoth, Beth-arabah, Beth-aram/Beth-haram, Beth-arbel, Beth-aven, Beth-azmaveth, Beth-baalmeon, Beth-ashbea (1 Chronicles 4:21), Beth-barah, Beth-birei, Beth-car, Beth-dagon, Beth-diblathaim, Beth-eden (Amos 1:5), Beth-eked, Beth-emek, Beth-ezel, Beth-gader, Beth-gamul, Beth-gilgal, Beth-haccereem (Nehemiah 3:14), Beth-haran, Beth-hoglah, Beth-horon, Beth-leaphrah, Beth-lebaoth, Beth-lejeshimoth/Beth-jesimoth, Beth-maachah, Beth-marcaboth, Beth-meon, Beth-millo, Beth-nimrah, Beth-palet/Beth-phelet, Beth-pazzez, Beth-peor, Beth-rapha, Beth-rehob, Beth-shan/Beth-shean, Beth-shemesh, Beth-shitta, Beth-tappua/Beth-tappuah, Beth-togarmah, Beth-zur,

The other hyphenated names have also been allowed to stand even if they have familiar lead-ins: *Baal-*, *Beer-*, *Ben-* (except for Benjamin by convention), *El-* ("god of"), *Lo-* ("not), *Ir-* ("city of"), *Ish-* ("man/husband of"), *Kir-*, *Kiriath-*. The part after the hyphen has lower case. The formidable list of conventionally hyphenated place and personal names is as follows:

Abel-beth-maacaah, Abel-keramin, Abel-maim, Abel-meholah, Abi-albon, Adami-nekeb, Adoni-bezek, Aram-maacah, Aram-naharaim, Aram-zobah, Ataroth-addar, Atroth-beth-joab, Aznoth-tabor, **Baal-berith**, Baal-hazor, Baal-meon, Baal-gal, Baal-hermon, Baal-peor, Baal-perazim, Baal-shalishah, Baal-tamar, Baal-zebub, Balale-judah, Baaeth-beer, Bamoth-baal, Bath-rabbim, Beer-elim, Be-eshterah, Bene-berak, Bor-ashan, Ben-hail, **Caleb-ephraiah**, Chephar-ammoni, Col-hozeh, Cushan-rishathaim, **Dan-jaan**, **Ebed-melech**, Eglath-shelishiyah, Emek-keziz, Ephes-dammim, Esar-haddon, Eth-kazin, Evil-merodach, Ezion-geber, **Gath-hepher**, Gath-rimmon, Ge-harashim, Gibeah-elohim, Gur-baal, **Hadah-rimmon**, Hamath-zobah, Hammoth-dor, Hamon-gog, Harosheth-hagoyim, Hash-baddanah, Havvoth-jair, Hazar-enon, Hazar-shual, Hazar-susah, Hazar-susim, Hazazon-tamar, Helkath-hazzurim, Hiram-abi, **Ishbe-benob**, Ish-bosheth, **Jaare-oregim**, Jabesh-gilead, Jashubi-lehem, Josheb-bassheth, Jushad-hesed, **Kadesh-barnea**, Keren-happuch, Kir-hareseth, Kir-heres, Kiriath-arba, Kiriath-baal, Kiriath-sannah, Kiriath-sepher, **Lebo-**

hamath, Lev-kamai, Lo-ammi, Lo-debar, Lo-ruhamah, **Mahaneh-dan**, Mahar-shalal-hash-baz, Malchi-shua, Me-jarkon, Meribath-kadesh, Merib-baal, Merodach-baladan, Migdal-el, Misrehoth-maim, Muth-labben, **Naphath-dor**, Nathan-melech, Nergal-sar-ezer, **Obed-edom**, **Pahath-moab**, Perez-uzzah, Pi-beseth, Pochereth-hazzebaim, **Rab-mag**, Rab-osaris, Ramoth-gilead, Ramathaim-zophin, Ramath-mizpeh, Regem-melech, Romanti-ezer, **Sar-sekim**, Shalabbin, Shamgar-nebu, Shear-jashub, Shethar-bozenai, Shihor-libnath, Shimron-meron, Succoth-benoth, **Taanath-shiloh**, Tel-abib, Tel-harsha, Tel-melah, Tiglath-peleser, Tiglath-pilneser, Timnath-heres, Timnath-serah, **Uzzen-sheerah**, **Zereth-Shahar**,

Italics

direct discourse, including quotation marks

added words for clarification when not in the Hebrew text; (non-italicized if added in italicized material). We could not be entirely consistent in this practice because the conversational wording significantly departs the word-for-word Hebrew original.

Titles of resources cited by Old Testament writers

- a. *The Book of the Wars of the Lord* (Numbers **21:14**)
- b. *The Book of Jashur* (Joshua **10:13**; 2 Samuel **1:18**; and possibly in the Septuagint at 1 Kings **8:53**)
- c. *The Book of the Acts* (ספר דברי) of Solomon (1 Kings **11:41**)
- d. *The Chronicles* (ספר דברי הימים) of the Kings of Israel (1 Kings **14:19**; **15:31**; **16:5**, 14, 20, 27; **22:39**, 45; 2 Kings **1:18**; **10:34**; **13:8**, **12**; 14:15, 28; **15:11**, 15, 21, 26, 31)
- e. *The Chronicles* (ספר דברי הימים) of the Kings of Judah (1 Kings **14:29**; cp. **15:7**, 23, 31; **22:45** [46]; 2 Kings **8:23**; **12:19** [20]; **14:18**; **15:6**, 36; **16:19**; **20:20** [25]; **21:17**, 25; **23:28**; **24:5**)
- f. *The Chronicles* (ספר) of the Kings of Israel (1 Chronicles **9:1**; 2 Chronicles **33:18** [דברי]; same as preceding?)
- g. *The Chronicles* (דברי) of Samuel the Seer (1 Chronicles **29:29**)
- h. *The Chronicles* (דברי) of Gad the Seer (1 Chronicles **29:29**)
- i. *The Chronicles of King David* (2 Chronicles **27:24**)
- j. *The Prophecy* (נבואת) of Ahijah the Shilonite (2 Chronicles **9:29**)
- k. *The Chronicles* (דברי) of Nathan the Prophet (2 Chronicles **9:29**)
- l. *The Visions* (חזות) of Iddo the Seer (2 Chronicles **9:29**)
- m. *The Chronicles* (דברי) of Shemaiah the Prophet (2 Chronicles **12:15**)
- n. [The Chronicles (דברי)] of Iddo the Seer (2 Chronicles **12:15**; a dual-authorship work with the preceding prophet?)
- o. *The Account* (מדרש) of the Prophet Iddo (2 Chronicles **13:22**; same as the preceding?)
- p. *The Book* (ספר) of the Kings of Judah and Israel (2 Chronicles **16:11**; **25:26**)

- q. *The Chronicles* (דברי) of Jehu Son of Hanani (inserted in the Book of the Kings of Israel; 2 Chronicles 20:34)
- r. *The Commentary* (מדרש) of the Book of the Kings (2 Chronicles 24:27; 35:27; 36:8); note the writing of Elijah (2 Chronicles 21:12).
- s. *The Vision* (חזון) of Isaiah the Prophet Son of Amoz (2 Chronicles 32:32; = the canonical book?)
- t. *The Chronicles* (דברי) of the Kings of Israel (2 Chronicles 33:18)
- u. *The Lamentations* (קִינּוֹת) (2 Chronicles 35:25; = the canonical book?)
- v. *The Book of Chronicles* (ספר דברי הימים) (Nehemiah 12:23; Esther 2:23; 6:2)
- w. *The Chronicles of the Kings of Media and Persia* (ספר דברי הימים למלכי מדיס; Esther 10:2; cp. 9:32?)
- x. *The Law of the LORD* (2 Chronicles 35:27)

Tune names in the introductions of 21 Psalms scattered across Psalms 8-88: 8, 9 (also 9:16), 12, 22, 39, 45, 46, 53, 56, 57, 58, 59, 62, 69, 75, 77, 80, 81, 84, 88, and 1 Chronicles 15:21; Habakkuk 3:1

In some cases, *CV* takes the liberty of putting an italicized name in place of an at-first ambiguous pronoun reference (as with proleptic pronouns—pronouns given before the noun they replace).

For variant forms of some names, we have entered both side by side with a slash between them and italicized the one not in the current text: Joram/*Jehoram* (2 Kings 8:23); *Joram*/*Jehoram* (2 Chronicles 22:5-11), etc.

For clarification to avoid contradiction with materials elsewhere: “visit the consequences of parents’ sins on their descendants” (Exodus 20:5; 34:7; Numbers 14:18; Deuteronomy 5:9) to avoid contradiction with the dictum that guilt and punishment are personal to the individual that does the sin (Deuteronomy 24:16; 2 Kings 14:6; 2 Chronicles 25:4; Jeremiah 31:30; Ezekiel 18:4, 17-20).

words used as words

Page Layout

Direct discourse of three lines or more is indented from both margins (Genesis 7:1-4).

Indentation patterns at various levels assist the eye in seeing relationships in genealogies.

The patterns of indentations in poetic portions reflect the translator’s judgment about content relationships: Moses’ Song of Triumph (Exodus 15:1-18), The Song of Deborah (Judges 5); Hannah’s “Prayer of Thanksgiving” (1 Samuel 2:1-10); David’s “Psalm of Praise” (2 Samuel 22:2-51); “David’s Last Words” (2 Samuel 23:107); the Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, extensive portions of the prophets. Whether a portion is poetry is itself something of a judgment call. Hebrew poetry has conceptual parallelism but not rhyme scheme or meter, which makes poetry less distinct from prose. Parallelism can occur in more prosaic portions that by custom of usage use double entry

of various sorts. It makes spontaneous poetry a conceivable possibility: Note Hannah's "*Song of Thanksgiving*" (1 Samuel 2:1-10), which is comparable to Mary's "*The Magnificat*" (Luke 1:46-55), Zacharius' "*Benedictus*" (Luke 1:68-79), and others like Simeon's "*Nunc dimittis*" (Luke 2:29-32).

Line changes sometimes suffice for speaker changes in dialogues without using introductory remarks for the second speaker (1 Samuel 14:6, 7; 2 Kings 1-2; 2 Chronicles 18:4-27). Oral public reading needs to use voice inflection and pausing to clarify the change.

Empty lines for major breaks in the text are translation choices.

Empty lines appear before and after written documents reproduced in the text: 2 Kings 10:1-4, 6; 2 Chronicles 2:11-17; 21:12-15; 30:6-9, 17; 36:22-23 = Ezra 1:1-4; 4:11-16, 17-22; 5:6-17; 6:2-12; 7:11-26; Nehemiah 6:6-7

paragraphing instead of separate beginnings for each verse. Breaking down the text into paragraphs does not necessarily reproduce the underlying Hebrew textual layout. Keeping sets of verses in paragraph form better retains conceptual connections.

Versification follows English conventions. Psalm headings are part of the Hebrew text verse numbering. Some Hebrew sections differ from English conventional text divisions: Exodus 7:26-29 (Hebrew text equals 8:1-4 English with 8:5-32; English numbering adjusted accordingly); Malachi 4:1-6 is 3:19-24 in the Hebrew text. **other examples** LXX versification and sectioning are quite different in Jeremiah because whole blocks of content are re-sequenced (as if they were from another copy (of Barack's writing from Jeremiah's dictation?). Whole Psalm numberings are off as well in the LXX beginning with Psalm 10 (LXX combines Hebrew Psalm 9 and 10) and supplies an additional hymn at the end of Psalms to make the standard 150.

Numbers

Cardinal Arabic numbers appear for weights, measures, and population figures for quicker recognition. *CV* uses them more prolifically than style manuals call for, especially in contexts with lots of other numbers. We have even started a number of full sentences with Arabic numbers: Genesis 46:26, 27; 47:9; Exodus 25:33; Numbers 25:9; 35:14; Joshua 20:44, 46; Judges 20:34, 44, 46; 1 Kings 9:23; 10:20; 2 Kings 2:7; 15:25; 18; 2 Chronicles 9:19; Isaiah 55:1; Ezekiel 40:22, *etc.*

Ordinal Arabic numbers occur only twice: Genesis 7:11 (the flood's coming in the 600th year of Noah's life); Genesis 8:13; 1 Kings 6:1 (the beginning of constructing Solomon's Temple in the 480th year after the exodus).

Parenthesis

(Ben)Hinnom because different text references use the fuller or shorter form of the same place name; explanatory comments in the text either as asides or added by later copyists or redactors

For eye aids in genealogical strings in narrative portions (with smaller print): Numbers 27:1; Joshua 7:1, 18; 17:3; Ezra 7:1-5; Zechariah 9:1

Pronouns

CV references place names by *it* rather than *he* or *she* in most cases. Many Old Testament place names are patronymics, that is, they come from the name of a patriarch. That calls for masculine references to them in Hebrew. Often English, too, must use a masculine pronoun to keep from “jarring” the wording in the context. We have changed such examples to *it* whenever feasible.

Impersonal referents have *it*. Since Hebrew does not have neuter grammatical gender, Hebrew pronouns and gender-specific verb endings (second and third persons) are masculine or feminine for purposes of grammatical connection. English has virtually lost grammatical gender, which leaves sex reference only, and that has disappeared except for third person singular personal, intensive, and reflexive pronouns. As noted earlier, wisdom is not referred to in English with *she* as a translation of the main Hebrew words for it, which are feminine (Proverbs 1:20).

Pronunciation not Provided

Most name pronunciation comes from English custom of usage, which derives from patterns of accenting together with vowel length as represented by English lettering. That differs from the accenting and letter values in the original. Besides, custom of English usage varies over time and from place to place as illustrated by the older *Darius* vs. the contemporary *Darius* as a frequent name among American athletes.

Punctuation (see individual punctuation marks)

The Conversational Version uses American rather than British punctuation where they differ.

Modern usage appears instead of older English style, where most clauses were set off in commas whether restrictive or not. Greater use of commas occurred with appositives in earlier English usage. By eliminating commas, if possible, *CV* tries to avoid complicating the appearance of sentences. That means omitting them when class precedes particular in appositives and with short introductory prepositional phrases.

Quotation Marks

Hebrew does not have that mark. Frequently the text uses words to indicate the beginning of direct discourse, especially the participle “saying” (לֵאמֹר). The ends of quotations are not obvious in a few cases: Genesis 22:20-24 or 20-22

double quote marks around direct quotations (with italics); for embedded within embedded quotations as well (“‘ . . . ’”)

single quote marks around imbedded direct quotations (with italics)

main explanatory words for name choices (single quotes if explanatory words appear in a section of direct discourse): Genesis 2:7, 23; 3:20; 4:25; 5:29; 16:11, 13; 17:5; 21:6; 22:14; 25:30; 26:22; 27:36; 28:22; 29:32, 33, 34, 35; 30:6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 18, 20, 24; 31:48-51; 32:2, 28, 30; 38:29; 41:51, 52; 50:11; Joshua 22:34; 1 Samuel 1:20; 4:21; 7:12; 25:65; 2 Chronicles 20:26, and elsewhere very often.

Semi-Colon

used more often in poetic formats to separate lines of Hebrew parallelism. *And* is also removed from the front of the second line of synonymous parallelism in many cases.

reduced usage in non-poetic material as per modern avoidance except in formal writing: Ezekiel **22:27a, 27b**

retained in listings for marking off one unit that has comma subdivisions when the whole unit is parallel with other ones that are subdivided or not

Slash/Forward Diagonal

to separate alternate forms of the same name. The one in the text at that point has regular lettering; the other has italics: Joash/*Jehoash*, *Joram*/Jehoram.

Underlining

to highlight lists spanning across sections

Pharaoh's graduated concessions to Israel's request to leave: Exodus **8:25, 28; 9:28; 10:7, 11, 24; 21:31**

items Bezalel made for the tabernacle: Exodus **36:8, 14, 20, 31, 35; 37:1, 6, 10, 17, 25; 38:1, 8, 9, 18; Daniel 7:4-7**

factors associated with sacrifices: Leviticus **1-9**

dietary laws: Leviticus **11**

to help track names in genealogical listings (along with bold-face entries and indenting): Genesis **10:22-30**, *e.g.*

rulers of the Northern Kingdom in 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles

a few recurrent expressions: *I'm the LORD* (Leviticus **18-26**, and elsewhere)

translator-supplied to help clarify suggested emphasis in reading the text

to replace Hebrew emphasis formula "as for x"; changed to "you," *etc.* "You will pass on to your ancestors" (Genesis **15:15**)

Spelling

American instead of British spelling of common words where they differ

Contractions are almost always used when possible. To add dignity to the Decalogue, contractions do not appear in Exodus **20** and Deuteronomy **5**. Contractions are a major factor in supporting the conversational feel. See *supra* under "Conversational Style."

Hebrew name spelling is by American convention rather than phonetic spelling, letter equivalencies as offered in Hebrew grammars for transliteration purposes, or even current English spelling sometimes used by Jewish writers (as in *v* for non-dagesh-lene Hebrew כ as well as ך; כ is a bilabial voiced fricative; ך is a labiodental voiced fricative). As with other contemporary English versions, we have not appealed to Greek spellings from the Septuagint (LXX) or New Testament Greek. That creates another set of problems because the Greek alphabet does not match very well the Hebrew phonetic system or the English one. Note the confusion raised in the King James

Versions that tried to use the Greek spelling of Hebrew names cited in the New Testament. They did not correspond well with their Old Testament antecedents (Osee for Hosea and –as endings for Hebrew names ending in –ah because Greek does not have a written h sound except in initial position (and prepositional consonant-ending prefixes to rough-breathing roots): Elias/Elijah, Esaias/Isaiah, Jonas/Jonah, Jeremias/Jeremiah, Judas/Judah, *etc.*). In Acts 7:45 and Hebrews 4:8 the Authorized Version reads *Jesus* because the Greek spelling of *Joshua* is *Iesous*: “*If Joshua had given them rest.*”

Several Hebrew letters do not have close equivalents in the American alphabet:

Ⲁ (like the h in honor, but not usually written in English words, where the sound occurs variantly on the front of words beginning with vowels when deliberately pronounced—apple; ‘ represents Ⲁ in transliteration practice);

Ⲇ (conventionally Anglicized with *ch* for a velar fricative) and pronounced k in all anglicized English Old Testament names except Rachel),

Ⲛ (lies behind Hebrew names typically written with English *j* despite its having an English initial *y* sound),

ⲛ (retroflexed *t*),

ⲟ (laryngeal fricative, ‘ represents ⲟ in formal transliteration),

Ⲡ (retroflexed *s* but covered in English transliteration simply by *s* as with the Hebrew ש vs. שׁ). Modern Hebrew pronunciation makes stops out of the fricatives ⲡ (b/bh), Ⲣ (g/gh), ⲣ (d/dh), Ⲥ (k/kh), ⲥ (p/ph), Ⲧ (t/th) with or without dagesh lene or dagesh forte, which were dots inside the letter to indicate the stop or double-stop value.

ⲧ has become *v* instead of *w*. Among the vowels *patah* and *qamets* are pronounced alike. Then there is the variance between Ashkenazic and Sephardic pronunciation with *sheva* prominence, *etc.* CV has used *Yahveh* as the spelling for God’s personal name while keeping *Yahwism*.

So, it is complicated, but we have followed convention and streamlined name spelling for practical purposes. (The Hebrew consonants in sequence appear in the section headings of the acrostic Psalm 119 in the American Standard Version of 1901, *New International Version* (NIV), in others, and in this *The Conversational Version*.)

The spelling of quite a few proper names has been altered in more recent renderings of the Old Testament. A majority of these variants relate to the letter kaph (Ⲥ) in initial or medial position. Earlier versions usually transliterated it *ch*; more lately it has been covered by *k* (or by *c* if not followed by *e*, *i*, or *y*; that latter circumstance would give *c* an *s* sound in English). The change is due in part to shifts in Hebrew pronunciation itself. The following names are among those affected by the shift from *ch* to *k* (before *e*, *i*, or *y*) or *c* elsewhere): Abel-**k**eramim, A**c**sah, A**c**shaph, A**c**zib, Ar**k**i, Be**c**oreth, Be**k**er, Bara**k**ah, Be**r**akiah/Bere**k**iah, Bi**c**ri, **K**orashan/Borashan, **C**ozeba. **C**un, **C**ushan, **C**alcol, Chaldean/**B**abylonian, Ha**c**moni, Ha**k**aliah, Ha**k**ilah, Isma**k**iah, Ja**c**an, Ja**k**in, Jebe**r**ekiah, Kaiwan/**K**ium, **K**ebar, **K**edorlaomer, **K**elal, **K**elluki, **K**elubai/Caleb, **K**enani, **K**enaniah,

Kephar, Kephirah, Keran, Kerethim, Kerith, Kesed, Kesil, Kesulloth, Kezib, Kidon, Kileab, Kilion, Kilmad, Kilmas, Kimham, Kinnereth, Kislev, Kislone, Kisloth, Kitham, Kittim, Korashan/Borashan, Maacah, Macaiah, Macbena, Macbannai, Macnadebai, Maki, Makir, Malkiel, Malkijah, Malkiram, Malkishma, Maskil, Micmash, Micri, Mikmethath, Miktam, Molech/Malcom/Milcom, Nacon, Neco, Ocran, Pokereth, Racal, Recab, Sarsekim, Seku, Semakiah, Shecaniah, Sithri/Zithri, Soco/Shocho, Sucathites,

Hebrew plurals in –im (mas) and –oth (fem) are usually shifted to English *s* plural forms in translations. *CV* has anglicized these plurals: ashers (asherim), asherahs (asheroth), baals (baalim), cherubs (cherubim), seraphs (seraphim), teraphs (teraphim); but not Anakim, Nipihilim, Rephaim, Rephidim, and other plural gentiles.

Superscript

to distinguish Jeroboam^I and Jeroboam^{II} (with bold superscript Roman numerals)

with bold superscript for verse indicators

You^{sg} and you^{pl} clarify the ambiguous English pronoun that renders the specific second-person Hebrew verbs or pronouns

to distinguish masculine^{mas} and feminine^{fem} reference when otherwise unclear in English
deference language has largely been dropped and adjusted to English expression: 1 Samuel **25:24-31**

to indicate the original names of measures given in the Hebrew text alongside their approximate English equivalents put in regular type. Cubit measures for length are given as a standardized 1½ft (< 17.72ins). In Ezekiel the “long cubit/royal cubit” @ 20.67ins is evidently meant. See **Measures** below.

to draw attention to discontinuity of person, tense, and number: Exodus **15:26**, etc.

to indicate using English imperatives (verbs^f) to replace Hebrew imperfects for commands

to note a Septuagint reading: LXX as in 1 Samuel **13:5**; 2 Samuel **4:6**; Psalm **40:6**; **68:18**; Ezekiel **5:7**; Obadiah 21; Zechariah **9:15**

Syntax

Collective noun subjects have singular verbs as in American vs. British usage.

Measures

Statements about value are left in Semitic terminology because modern inflation soon makes equations incorrect. Many monetary systems were originally figured from a basic unit equal to a laborer’s daily pay.

CV translates weights into rough modern equivalents and uses the ancient terms in superscript alongside. Shekels, talents, and other terms were weights instead of coins prior to the exile and perhaps as far back as 700 B.C., around the time of the divided kingdom. *CV* has brought the terms into rough American equivalents as ounces, pounds, and tons. Large amounts of gold, silver, bronze, and iron are

given in *tons* for quicker recognition; in the following list, underlining accompanies small numbers given in *lbs* or *oz*; the rest are given as tons (except where the total figure is a composite of talents and shekels): Genesis 20:16; 23:14, 16; 24:22; 30:14-15; 23-24; 33:19 + Joshua 24:32 (*kesitahs*); 37:28; 45:22; Exodus 21:32; 25:39; 37:24; 38:24-26, 27-28, 29; 43:31; Leviticus 27:3-7, 16; Numbers 3:47, 50; 7:13-14; 8:84-86; 31:52; Deuteronomy 22:19, 29; Joshua 7:21; Judges 8:26; 9:4; 16:4; 17:2, 4, 10; 1 Samuel 9:8; 17:5, 7; 2 Samuel 12:30; 18:11, 12; 21:16; 24:24; 1 Kings 9:14, 28; 10:10, 14, 16, 17, 29; 16:24; 20:39; 2 Kings 5:5, 22, 23; 7:1, 16-18; 15:19-20; 18:14; 23:33a, b; 1 Chronicles 19:6; 21:15; 22:14; 29:4, 7; 2 Chronicles 2:17; 3:8, 9; 8:18; 9:1, 9, 13, 15-16; ; 20:2; 25:6, 9; 27:5; 36:3a, b; Ezra 2:69; 7:22; 8:26-27; Nehemiah 5:15; 10:32; Esther 3:9; Song of Solomon 8:11, 12; 8:12; Isaiah 7:23; Jeremiah 32:9; Ezekiel 4:10; Hosea 3:2; Zechariah 11:12.

That leaves volume as something to equate roughly with modern systems. Sources vary significantly; so *CV* has standardized size according to the layout by G. F. Hill in Hasting's Dictionary of the Bible (1989), pp. 967-71. That analysis puts the "homer/cor" as the guide dry measure for volume and yields numbers significantly larger than what appear in several more recent translations:

homer	11 bushels		
ephah	1.1 bushels	seah	.36 bushel (4½ pecks, ⅓ ephah)
omer	.11 bushels		

The wet measures of volume are geared to the "bath/ephah":

bath	9 gallons	cab	4 pints
hin	1½ gallons	log	1 pint

Measures of length are termed loosely as follows:

cubit	1½ feet	reed	9 feet (6 cubits)	palm	3 inches
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Besides variables already noted, the ancient systems had two or more variants within even the same culture, and differed somewhat between Egyptian, Phoenician, and Babylonian systems. Time may also be a complicating factor. The cubit, for example, had a royal and common variant. In Ezekiel our numbers reflect the "long cubit" (Ezekiel 43:13; hence, the rather cumbersome exactness that comes into the text there: .11 bushels!). So *CV* has entered its numbers relative to the 20.67-inch royal cubit, which is about 17% longer than the common cubit (17.72 inches). Solomon's Temple may have used the royal cubit as well, but *CV* assumes the common cubit and rounds off everywhere outside of Ezekiel. The measurements for the volume used with the sacrificial system may have differed as well from common amounts. The calculated amounts appear on the line of the text with the original terms superscripted after them.

Individual Words

A number of these entries also come up in other parts of these Translation Notes.

* or + indicates a complete listing

CV has not made a concerted effort to translate the same Hebrew word with the same English word, but the following are items of notable replacements from older translations and from words less recognizable to a general audience.

a (a) used instead of *the* with a noun typical of its class: Numbers **24:8**, horns of a wild ox; Job **27:18**, a watchman's shed; **19:29**; Psalm **94:21**; **129:3**; **145:9**; Hosea **11:4**; Zechariah **11:3**.

(b) replaced with a plural or anarthrous English noun in Job **21:12**; Proverbs **6:6** (ants); Isaiah **44:9**; **45:2** (craftsmen); **51:8** (moth); Ezekiel **17:22** (cedar).

(c) Hebrew could use its article for something known and definite to the writer, though not to the reader: note Genesis **14:13**. For English purposes, the definite article implies that the referent is known to both. The inference seems to be that no English definite article belongs in Isaiah **7:14** because the reader of Isaiah would not know about "the" virgin aside from the fulfillment of the author's comment itself.

affliction often replaced with more contemporary expressions: abuse, pain, suffering, troubled

albeit not used

(is) *able* (to) replaced by *can*

(not *able* (to) replaced by *cannot*

alien foreigner

all (a) omitted as often as feasible. Hebrew seems to include it to reinforce a generality, perhaps more like size than number. At any rate, English risks implying *all* in an absolute sense. That tendency, in fact, applies to a majority of absolute and universal terms: *every*, *everybody*, *all*, *nobody*, *whole*, *forever*. The Hebrew for *all* (כָּל) is greatly overused in comparison to English *all*. Instead, English indicates generality by simple statement. English assumes that saying a group of people did such and such means they all did it with perhaps some exceptions. That "low percentage" of exceptions, if any, does not detract from the characterizing statement about the group. It strikes us that the high frequency of כָּל may well be part of the broader tendency toward grand expression that shows itself also in pleonastic style. That is another way of looking at characterizing statement *vs.* absolute uniformity. Besides, other features of the situation or the very nature of the case make clear the sufficient "all-ness" of the reference whether *all* is said (Hebrew) or not (English). *All* in such usages amounts to "as a group," which is different from "all" as in every example.

(b) replaced with *every*: Genesis **8:1**; Psalm **72:11b**; **117:1**. Contemporary English prefers distributive singular (*every*) over general plural (*all*).

(c) In some instances, we have kept *all* as with "all Israel" when it seems to have more than just Judah in mind—what would later be the Northern and Southern Kingdoms together: David was king of "all Israel" in contrast to sharing the rule with King Saul.

also usually replaced with *too*, *as well*, *and*

and (a) omitted between elements in a list even though Hebrew characteristically puts ו (and) between each member in the set since ו is an inseparable prefix rather than a free-standing term.

(b) reduced *and*'s: See Deuteronomy 4:28; 6:7; 7:5; 12:6; 13:4; 26:17; 1 Samuel 22:2; 2 Kings 20:20.

(c) omitted even between the last two entries of a list to suggest that the list is representative rather than exhaustive

(d) omitted between sentences despite the presence of ו between most Hebrew sentences. *CV* gives two sentences instead.

(e) omitted when ו seems to mean “even” and therefore has an appositional force (Zechariah 9:9). That practice carries over into the parallelism that characterizes Semitic poetry. We have often left it off the front of the second line in synonymous parallelism. The second line of the parallelism is not another referent but a second way of referring to the same referent.

(f) Sometimes the coordinate conjunction ו covers an adversative situation rather than a copulative one; so *but* may appear in the *CV* wording: Obadiah 18; Jonah 1:3.

and it came to pass dropped. The construction represents the recurrent Hebrew וַיְהִי,

angel (a) *angel* as in supernatural messenger from God. As such, “an/the angel of the LORD” are both grammatical possibilities because names/nouns in the Hebrew construct cannot carry the prefixed article. The matter has some importance because it impacts the issue of whether there is a specific “angel” distinct from the rest. The question subsequently arises whether “the *angel of the LORD*” equals *the Son* as per later revelation or at least has actual deific reference or representative/functional reference.

anger/angry sometimes changed to “mad,” with people. *Anger* and *wrath* come up so often with God that leaving it out or substituting a less potent word seems appropriate for toning down the negativity in English. It also seems appropriate when considered alongside the frequent strong emphasis on Yahveh’s love for his people and others.

answered often omitted altogether after a question that the next sentence obviously answers. As with dialog generally, the respondent’s words begin on a new line without an introductory formula.

arise usually omitted with expressions like “arise and go” (Jonah 1:2). *Arise* amounts to part of an ingressive formula, one that indicates initiating an action

ark capitalized for the Ark of the Covenant;
lower case for Noah’s ark

Ark of the Covenant *CV* usually enters as a name in a set, short form as in Joshua 3:6; the Hebrew lengthens to *Ark of the Covenant of God* in 2 Samuel 15:24² (replaced by *it* in the second entry). *Ark of the Covenant of the LORD* appears in Numbers 10:33; Deuteronomy 31:9, 25; 1 Samuel 4:3; 1 Kings 8:1; 1 Chronicles 28:2, 18 and *Ark of the Covenant of the LORD Your God* in Joshua 3:3. *Ark of the Covenant of the LORD of Hosts Enthroned Above the Cherubs*, however, appears fully in *CV* in 1 Samuel 4:4 since by its length it approaches the feel of an intentional description more than a name.

as allowed as a preposition (1 Samuel 6:8). The usage comes up in a 2023 TV advertisement for a seniors’ dating service, “*They won’t be as lucky as me.*”

ashers in place of *asherim*

ashamed replaced with *embarrassed* on occasion

asherahs in place of the Hebrew plural form *asheroth*

uncapitalized in most references because the contexts indicate they were constructed

capitalized in six places where the term evidently refers to a Canaanite deity: Judges 3:7; 1 Kings 15:12; 2 Kings 2:7; 18:19; 23:9; 2 Chronicles 15:16

ashtoreths an anglicized plural of the Hebrew word in place of traditional *Ashtaroth* when referencing the plural of the goddess Ashtoreth; *Ashtaroth* when referencing the trans-Jordan city

atone sometimes replaced with *purify* or *cleanse* if ceremonial (Leviticus 12:7, 8, 14; 14:31, 53; 15:15). The words for something “incorrect” (or viewed as such—ceremonial vs. real) bleed across several categories as per modern usage; the same holds true for “undoing” these situations: physical (clean/bathe/wash), medical (heal), ceremonial (cleanse/purify), moral (forgive/atone). Maintaining consistency in modern classification does not always come easy. A reader has to nuance the differences according to attending circumstances.

ought not used

authority often replaced by *right* for a more positive connotation

baals Anglicized plural of *baal* in place of *baalim*.

balm replaced with *salve*; *ointment* or *resin* are alternate possibilities

bare in place of smooth as in hairless? (Isaiah 18:2, 7)

bath equated roughly to one gallon: 1 Kings 7:26, 28; 2 Chronicles 2:10; 4:5; Ezra 7:22; Isaiah 5:10; Ezekiel 45:10, 11 14^{4*}

bear carry (Joshua 4:16)

because (a) omitted frequently, especially if it seems to have an illative force (explanatory) instead of being a reason for what has gone before: “*You won’t gather any grapes; ~~because~~ worms will eat them*” (Deuteronomy 28:39). Even when the second clause naturally serves as a reason for the former comment, English speakers often leave it out, expecting the hearer to supply it (Genesis 20:3). That habit of speech makes for greater interest because of greater listener participation. So *because* joins *all* and *and* as omissions that help move the story along and focus attention. See also *fear* below.

(b) often dropped between clauses when it is obvious that the second clause indicates the reason of the first (1 Samuel 9:13, “*The people won’t eat till he comes; ~~because~~ he has to bless the sacrifice.*”)

(c) replaces *for* as a conjunction; consequently, *because* serves both today as a subordinate and coordinate conjunction. It has probably come to have that double role because coordinate and subordinate value can be difficult to distinguish anyway.

before (a) time expression more frequently than (b) position, if clear: Genesis 10:9;

(c) “in front of” worded as “in x’s presence”: Exodus 18:12; 22:11; 43:23; Numbers 14:37; 20:3; 25:4; Deuteronomy 1:45; 4:10; 10:8; 16:11, 16; 27:7; 29:10; 1 Samuel 2:21; 2 Samuel 21:6; Psalm 23:5;

(d) “in front of” as “ahead of” (movement): Exodus **14:19**; **32:1**, 23, 24; Psalm **89:14**;

(e) “in front of” as “facing”: Joshua **18:14**;

(f) “in front of” as “near”: Numbers **33:7**, 47; Judges **16:3**;

(g) “in front of” as “east of” (2 Chronicles **20:16**)

began usually omitted because Hebrew has such a propensity for indicating the beginning of action. English custom usually omits making a point of that fact; it lets the reader infer it. Note above the similarity with the use of *arise* or even *go and* as ingressive indicators.

beget/begat replaced with *was father of*

before reserved for time reference; place reference is normally indicated by *in front of*.

Behold omitted: Daniel **2:31**; **4:10**, etc.; Daniel **2:3**, 4, etc.; Genesis **1:19**; see Young’s Concordance for a handy listing of Hebrew words in these groups.

beyond the Jordan (עבר הירדן and related expressions) a recurrent expression seemingly without uniform meaning relative to the east or west side of the Jordan River, relative to the writer’s presumed viewpoint, relative to the preceding event, or opposite the anticipated destination of the writing. CV has replaced *beyond* with *east of* (Number **34:15**; Deuteronomy **1:1**; **4:46**; Joshua **1:14**; **2:10**; **7:7**; Judges **10:8**; 1 Samuel **31:7**; 2 Chronicles **20:16**), *west of* the Jordan (Deuteronomy **3:25**, opposite from a character’s position in the narrative), or *by* the Jordan (Judges **7:25**).

beware expressed as *watch out for*

blaspheme (a) reserved for slanderous speech toward deity

(b) *insult*, *rail out at*, *slander*, or equivalent expressions about people

blessed Since not often used today, CV sometimes replaces it with *commend* (Nehemiah **11:2**; Proverbs **12:8**; **28:4**), frequently with *fortunate* (Judges **51:24**, etc.), omits it altogether as in Daniel **4:34**.

boast brag

boat the term used for smaller craft; *ship* used for sea-going vessels on the Mediterranean or the Gulf of Aqaba

bones In some places where it is used metaphorically, it has been replaced with *deep inside* (Job **20:30**; Psalm **6:2**; Proverbs **17:22**).

book replaced with *scroll* because *book* conjures up a codex in modern times, that is, a stack of leaves bound together: Exodus **17:14**; Deuteronomy **31:24**; Joshua **18:9**; 1 Samuel **10:25**; 2 Kings **22:10**; 2 Chronicles **34:18**, 21, 24, 31, etc. *Book* appears in the names of literary works.

bread (a) for “bread” in the usual English sense

(b) translated “food” or some equivalent expression in more general applications (Genesis **3:19**, etc.); *pastries* (Genesis **40:17**)

breastplate (a) replaced with *chest pouch* as part of the priestly ephod (Exodus **25:7**; **28:4**, 15, 22-30; **29:5**; **35:9**, 27; **39:8**, 9, 15-17, 19, 21²) since it was something that “contained” the Urim and Thummim (Exodus **28:30**) and lay over the high priest’s heart when he entered the Holy of Holies (Exodus **25:7**; **28:4**, 15, 22-30; **29:5**; **35:9**, 27; **39:8**, 9, 15-17, 19, 21²)

(b) kept as breastplate as an article of armor, a pectoral

brimstone sulfur

bring/brought Along with *take/took*, *go/went*, and *come/came*, we have been careful to maintain the correct point of orientation as established by previous context. *Bring* and *come* for toward the viewpoint, and *take* and *go* for away from it (Nehemiah 8:6).

brother usually limited to full siblings. In reference to other relatives, we have substituted *half-brother* (Judges 9:21; 2 Samuel 13:4, 7, 20, 26; 1 Kings 1:10; 9:2; 27:7, 15, 21, 22), *relative* (1 Kings 20:32) or *kin*; note also *cousin* in 2 Samuel 20:9, where it replaces an endearment use of *brother*.

breastplate replaced with *pouch* as part of the priestly ephod

brothers-in-law We were tempted to grate on purist niceties by spelling in-law words with the *s* on the end rather than after the first element: daughter-in-laws instead of daughters-in-law, the “correct” form. Like the word *in-laws*, the phrases have been set so long that people in unguarded speech slip into using the phrase as a word. But, alas, we succumbed to traditional expectancy in this case despite the fact that most people do not say that: Ruth 1:6, 7, 8.

cab/kab entered as approximately 3 pints: 2 Kings 6:25*

calamity usually replaced with *disaster*

can allowed to cover permission and ability (Numbers 35:28). In English, *can* has pretty well taken over the duties of *may* when meaning *allow*: “Yes, you can go.” *May* applies to contingent action: “That may happen if you don’t take your medicine.” Everyday English speakers no longer limit *can* to *be able*.

cavalry used in most places instead of *horsemen* (Genesis 50:9; Exodus 15:19, *etc.*), but not in 1 Kings 1:5; 10:26, *etc.*)

Chaldea(ns) replaced with *Babylon[ian(s)]* in 2 Kings 24:2; 2 Chronicles 36:17; Ezra 5:12; Jeremiah 22:25; 24:4; 25:12; 32:5, 24, 25, 28, 43; 33:5; 37:5, 8, 10, 11, 13; 39:5, 8; 41:18; 43:3; 50:1, 8, 10, 45, 25, 45; 51:4, 24, 54; 52:17; Ezekiel 12:13; 23:14, 45⁺, 15, 17; Daniel 1:9; 3:8

left as *Chaldean* in the early times (Genesis 11:28, 34; Job 1:17) and when Chaldea and Babylonia are mentioned together (Isaiah 13:19; Ezekiel 23:23)

replaced with *astrologers* in Daniel when mentioned alongside magicians, conjurers, and fortunetellers (Daniel 2:2, 4, 10; 3:8; 4:7; 5:7, 11).

cherubs Anglicized plural instead of the Hebrew plural *cherubim*.

child/children used for immediate offspring, not for descendants

inhabitants of a city: Jerusalem

(*with*) *child* pregnant

Christ replaced by *Anointed One* in the Old Testament case (Psalm 2:2 < *Messiah*)

city reserved for the largest urban places like Jerusalem, Babylon, Tyre, Sidon. Many unwallled locations should probably be called *towns* or *villages*, but our information is not sufficient now to make a proper determination. So, we have probably overused *city* to label places. *Settlements*

commends itself for what by context sound like little satellites *CV* has dubbed *settlements* in Nehemiah 11:25-26, for instance, because they were evidently small since the Israelites have only recently returned from captivity. The term appears elsewhere like Joshua 17:11, 16 and *seriatim*.

city (a) used for Bethlehem, Damascus, Hebron, Jericho, Jerusalem, Samaria, Sidon, Tyre. Because of uncertainty about the urban areas, the judgment call here is uncertain because knowing the population for ancient places is difficult. A number of locations are not labeled, so the issue is moot for them.

(b) Most other places called *cities* we have called *towns*. We have kept *city* for places conventionally so called: the cities of Egypt, cities of refuge, store cities, chariot cities, the five cities of the Philistines.

clean preceded by *ceremonially (un)clean* when not dealing with physical, medical, or moral concerns. Cp. a similar issue with *religious* prostitution.

cloud The expression “thick cloud” has been worded “dark cloud” in Exodus 19:9, 16; 20:21; 2 Samuel 22:12; 1 Kings 8:12; 2 Chronicles 6:1; Job 22:14; 37:11, 16; Psalm 18:11; Isaiah 44:22.

come/came reserved for “toward the viewpoint of speaker”; see *bring/brought* above likewise.

coming and going worded as “everyday life” (Joshua 14:11); “conduct” (1 Samuel 29:6); “in all that you do” (Psalm 121:8)

command/commandment especially when authority is not prominent in the context, sometimes weakened to *tell* (Numbers 34:29), *bring* (2 Chronicles 7:13), *declare* (Esther 9:32), *demand* (Daniel 2:5), *forbid* (Lamentations 1:10), *gave* (Joshua 22:9), *give the go-ahead* (Amos 9:9), *have* (Amos 9:4), *permit* (Lamentations 3:37), *say* (2 Chronicles 25:4), *will* (Leviticus 24:12). The alterations reduce the “heavy” feel of the hand of God and human leaders in relation to people of lower rank.

conceived replaced sometimes with *became pregnant*;

sometimes omitted in the series “*had relations with his wife, ~~and she conceived~~, and had a son*” (Isaiah 8:3)

concerning about

congregation replaced with *community* rather than an individual *assembly*

cor/kor entered roughly as 11 bushels: Ezekiel 45:14*

court used *courtyard* to an open area outside, especially in the construction of the Tabernacle, the Temple, and Ezekiel’s Temple (Ezekiel 40ff.)

Court labels (a) an inside area as in Xerxes’ palace (Esther 4:11; 5:1),

(b) the process of judgment (Job 24:1), or

(c) the king plus his closest circle of officers (Jeremiah 29:2; Daniel 1:4; 2:49).

covenant used for the God-to-Israel system;

replaced by *treaty* for international agreements (Ezekiel 17:13, 15, 17);

pact between individuals (2 Kings 11:4),

marriage between husband and wife (Malachi 2:14),

commitment for reaffirming the covenant under Josiah (2 Kings 22:3) and Ezra (Ezra 10:3; Proverbs 18:17).

Covenant of salt In Numbers 18:19 and 2 Chronicles 13:5, CV has added the word *permanent creature* replaced with some other expression like *created thing*. *Creature* has come to mean, not something “created,” but something bizarre.

cry out (a) reserved for intensive appeals or outcries from fear;

(b) often replaced with *shout*

(b) *Cry* is reserved for mourning, except for cases where people express obvious fear.

cubit standardized as 1½ ft; the royal and common cubit have not been differentiated.

Cush rendered *Nubia* in place of *Ethiopia*, the term used in many standard English versions: 2 Kings 19:9; Esther 1:1; 8:9; Job 28:19; Psalm 7 (heading); 68:31; 87:4; Isaiah 11:11; 18:1; 20:3, 5; 37:9; 43:3; 45:14; Jeremiah 46:9; Ezekiel 29:10; 30:4, 5, 9; 38:5; Amos 9:7; Nahum 3:9; Zephaniah 3:10. כוש refers to the southern section of ancient Egypt (above the second Nile cataract) and some of northern Sudan. Ethiopia today indicates a land at the “horn of Africa.”

Left as *Cush* in Genesis 2:13.

rendered *Cush* for men’s names in Genesis 10:6, 7, 8; 1 Chronicles 1:8, 9, 10.

Cushite appears as *Nubian* (rather than *Ethiopian*) in Numbers 12:1; 2 Samuel 18:21, 23, 31, 32; 2 Chronicles 12:3; 14:9, 12, 13; 16:8; 21:16; Jeremiah 13:23; 38:7; 39:16; Daniel 11:43; Zephaniah 2:12.

daughters *Inhabitants* is used whenever possible if *daughters* means the residents of a city/place.

day (a) a 24-hour period

(b) replaced “*in the day/s of*” with “*at the time of*” (1 Kings 10:21)

(c) *daylight* for when the sun shines

(d) *time* for an indefinite time

deep sometimes *open water*; used as an adjective

desert not particularly an area of cactus and sand as an area where few people lived. Not living somewhere, of course, could be because it was too arid.

detestable disgusting

divination fortunetelling

dove *pigeon* often, except in Song of Solomon, where *dove* is kept (because *pigeon* does not have a very romantic connotation!)

draw near replaced with *come close* or *come near* as contemporary expressions

drink offering replaced with *liquid offering* because no one “drank” it;

Drink offering could be thought of as God or the gods “drinking” it. The expression occurs in fifty places: Genesis 35:14; Exodus 25:29; 29:40, 41; 30:9; 37:16; Leviticus 23:13, 18, 37; Numbers 4:7; 6:15; 15:5, 7, 10, 24; 28:7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 25, 31; 29:6, 11, 16, 18, 19, 39; Deuteronomy 32:38; 2 Kings 16:13, 16; 1 Chronicles 29:21, 35; Ezra 7:17; Psalm 16:4; Isaiah 57:6; Jeremiah 7:18; 19:13; 32:29; 44:17, 19, 25; 52:19; Ezekiel 20:28; 45:17; Hosea 9:4; Joel

1:9, 13; 2:14. Cp David's libation to the LORD in 2 Samuel 23:13-17 and Jacob's anointing of the stone marker in Genesis 35:14-15.

dwell generally avoided as a word not as commonly used as *live*, *stay*, *reside*, *inhabit*
dwelling place not used

earth when in contrast to sky or heaven; replaced with *ground* as when Moses bowed down to the *ground* (Exodus 34:8), cycled with *world* for variety

earthenware clay (pot, amphora, jug, *etc.*)

east translation for "in front of" (2 Chronicles 20:16)

entreat often replaced with *ask*

ephah entered as approximately 1.1 bushels: Exodus 16:36; 29:40; Leviticus 5:11; 6:20; 19:36; 23:13; 24:5; Numbers 5:15; 15:4, 6, 9; 28:5; Judges 6:19; Ruth 2:17; 1 Samuel 1:24; 17:17; Ezekiel 45:10, 11, 13², 24²; 46:5², 7², 11², 13

Zechariah 5:6, 8, 9* carries the term *ephah* because it apparently refers to a typical measuring unit and names a container (of a size a woman could be put in it) rather than something equal to 1/10 of a homer. See "**Measures**" above.

even Occasionally a "misplaced *even*" appears in *CV*. In everyday conversation, English speakers put *even* ahead of the verb instead of the adjective or noun it modifies: Esau says, "*Don't you even have one blessing for me, father?*" instead of "*Don't you have even one blessing for me, father?*" (Genesis 27:38); also. Proverbs 16:7. (cp. "misplaced *only*" and "misplaced *just*" below)

every used in place of *all* whenever possible as per current English preference

Sometimes *CV* replaces *every* with *people* because *everybody* sounds too strong for what probably happened in cases like Exodus 35:23, 24. See similar comments under *all* above.

everybody/everyone/everything a distributive singular in place of plural *all* (Proverbs 2:19). *Every* sees the full number ("all") one at a time instead of as a set. Current idiom often mixes the singularity ("everybody hears") and total plurality ("*Everybody . . . will clap their hands*"; Nahum 3:19b; "*against everybody that's exalted . . . so they can be abased*"; Isaiah 2:12). Contrast Jeremiah 31:30. *CV* treats antecedent *every* as an idiomatic plural: Psalm 5:11, "*Let everybody be happy . . . let them always sing for joy.*" Cp. Exodus 25:2; Numbers 21:9; Proverbs 5:21; Jeremiah 8:6; 18:16; Lamentations 2:15; Haggai 2:13. *CV* has adopted this usage as part of its use of inclusive language.

evil reserved for moral considerations and intense wrong quite often; replaced with *bad* (Isaiah 3:20), *difficult* (Ecclesiastes 12:1 for the deteriorating condition of elderly people), *disaster* (Jeremiah 2:3), *misfortune* (Proverbs 1:33; 3:29), *perverted* (Ecclesiastes 9:3), *problem* (Ecclesiastes 5:13), *sin* (Jeremiah 2:13), *selfish* (Isaiah 55:7), *sinfulness* (Ecclesiastes 7:25), *thing* (Ecclesiastes 5:16), *what God forbids* (2 Chronicles 29:6), *wrong* (Exodus 9:27),

exalt often replaced by *elevate*

exceedingly replaced with *really* or omitted as a superlative

eyes reserved for organs of sight

omitted or replaced with circumlocution whenever possible in Semitic body-part expressions like

“in the eyes of the Lord,” meaning *“in the LORD’s estimation”*; *“lifted up his eyes”* for *“looked”*; *“eyes fell on”* for *“noticed”*; *“opened the eyes of”* for *“caused to see”* (Genesis 21:19)

face omitted or changed to some other appropriate term as an example of body-part language for *“presence”*: *“before ~~the face of~~ God”*

fall on the ground in place of *fall to the ground*

family replaced with *clan* (Zechariah 12:12)

far be it from _____ to (do such and such); _____ would never (do that); surely _____ would (not do such and such): Genesis 18:25²; 1 Samuel 2:30; 20:9; 22:15; 2 Samuel 20:20; 23:17; Job 34:10.

father (a) immediate parent

(b) replaced with *ancestor*—or perhaps *forefather* (Jeremiah 11:10)—if not referring to an immediate parent: Exodus 15:2; Judges 2:19; 2 Chronicles 29:6; 32:13, 14, 15; Isaiah 39:6, and elsewhere.

(c) kept for head of extended households, which were intergenerational sets of extended families; clans

(d) replaced with *predecessor* in Daniel 5:3, 11, 13, 18 since Belshazzar was not the immediate son or successor of Nebuchadnezzar. There were four kings with short reigns between the two kings of Babylon known from scripture.

See the entry for *sons*, a correlative term with *father*; that is, the range of meanings for one term corresponds to the range of meanings for the other.

(if I have found) *favor* (with) The idiom is somewhat like English usage as in *“do me a favor.”* CV replaces the term with several expressions: *“blessing”* (Job 11:19, etc.), *“graciousness”* (Psalm 6:4, etc.), *“grace”* (Proverbs 12:2, etc.), *“was gracious”* (Jeremiah 52:31, etc.), *“approval”* (Ecclesiastes 9:11, etc.), *“is favorable to”* (Proverbs 14:35, etc.), *“is/am pleasing to”* (often).

The wording affects Genesis 4:6; 18:3; 19:14; 32:5; 33:5, 8, 10, 15; 34:11; 39:19; 47:25, 29; 50:4; Exodus 3:21; 11:3; 33:12, 13, 16, 17; 34:9; Leviticus 26:9; Numbers 11:12, 15; 32:5; Deuteronomy 24:1; Judges 6:17; Ruth 2:10, 13; 1 Samuel 1:18; [2:26]; 13:12; 1 Samuel 20:29; 25:8; 27:5; 2 Samuel 14:22; 15:25; 16:4; 20:11; 1 Kings 11:19; 2 Kings 13:4; Nehemiah 2:5, 17; Esther 3:0, 15, 17; 4:2; 7:3, 8; 8:5; 10:3; Job 11:19; 20:10; Psalm 5:12; 45:12; 106:4; 119:58; 147:11; 1 Proverbs 3:3; 8:35; 11:27; 12:2; 13:13; 14:9, 35; 16:15; 18:22; 19:6, 12; 22:1; 28:23; 29:26; Jeremiah 52:31; Hosea 12:4; Zechariah 8:21, 22, Malachi 1:9.

fatherless not replaced with *orphans* because the children might still have their mothers, their fathers having been killed in war

fear frequently changed to *respect* in reference to God: Psalm 31:19; 2 Chronicles 6:31

Like *hate* and *rule*, the Hebrew word for *fear* can cover a wider range of degrees than the English term *fear*. We have endeavored to use *respect* for people intending to follow the LORD, and *fear* for opponents of the LORD.

fear and trembling (a) an expression that seems too extreme to take strictly in many examples

(b) Perhaps the phrase is a hendiadys for “trembling fear,” “felt fear” as distinct from mental apprehension. See also the comments on “Double Entry” above.

feast (a) left as *feast* that involves one meal

(b) replaced by *festival* for references to extended gatherings and occasions that involved more than a banquet, particularly the stated feasts of Israel’s festival cycle

flee sometimes replaced by *run away*, *escape*, *get away from*

foe enemy

foot eliminated when an example of Semitic body-part language

for (a) only as a preposition

(b) replaced with *because* when a conjunction is called for. Older English used *for* as the coordinate conjunction and *because* for the subordinate conjunction. Modern speech has lost the distinction, using *because* for both functions and in the process blurring the distinction.

Besides, the Hebrew word (*for*) often carries an illative sense rather than a logical sequence. The wording after *for* expands on the previous point rather than gives a reason for it. Aside from translating classical works, English does not use *for* as illative.

Beyond these points lies the English tendency to omit altogether any word for the causal connection between two statements, coordinate or subordinate. The listener makes the connection intuitively.

forget In texts that speak about God’s “*forgetting sin*,” for example, *CV* has used an expression like “*not keep in mind*” since God is said to be omniscient. Note the similar handling of God’s “*not remembering*” sin, etc.

forth (went) out

forever *permanently* sometimes used instead because English tends to take it as an absolute term whereas the Hebrew expression means absolute within its frame of reference: Ezra 9:12, etc.

Forever and *forever and ever* both reduced to *forever*. In Genesis 17:8 *CV* uses *ongoing* to describe the permanent possession of Canaan by Abraham’s descendants through Isaac.

foundation *founding* as in the *founding of the world*: English uses *foundation* for the base of a structure or what a foundation can serve as a figure for. Foundation as *the act of founding* has fallen out of use.

fruit used for what is soft and sweet and mostly grows on trees

avoided when used more generally to mean result, as in fruit of the womb or produce from a garden or field.

garden One particularly noticeable feature of this version is *Orchard of Eden* in place of the traditional *Garden of Eden* (Genesis 2:8-3:24; 13:10? Isaiah 51:3? Ezekiel 28:13; 31:9; 36:35). Fruit-bearing trees are the only flora the text presents as growing there and

supplying Adam and Eve with food. The decision to shift the wording illustrates substituting words with more specific meanings. The English word *garden* can include trees if the context so indicates, but normally it refers to where vegetables or perhaps *flowers* grow.

A similar specifying occurs with *said*.

be gathered to (your ancestors) *pass on*; a more recognizable euphemism for dying: Genesis **25:8**, **17**, **29**; **49:29**, **33**; Numbers **20:24**; **27:13**; **31:1**; Deuteronomy **49:50**; Judges **2:10**; 2 Kings **22:20**. *CV* did not simply reduce the expression to *die* because the original expression could carry something of an implication of life after death.

gate replaced with *gateway* to distinguish it from a gate on hinges, especially in Ezekiel **40ff**.

Gentiles Only in passages cited by the New Testament does *Gentiles* for “nations, non-Jews” show up as the *CV* translation of גוֹי in the Old Testament (to show OT-NT connection): Deuteronomy **32:43**; Psalm **2:1**; **18:49**; Isaiah **9:1**; **11:10**; **42:1**, **49:6**; Amos **9:12**. Elsewhere it is simply nations, especially since many such usages include “nations” displaced when Israel came into the Promised Land.

ghost replaced with *Spirit/spirit*. *Ghost* has narrowed its meaning to something scary that comes from someone deceased.

gird (a) allowed in 1 Kings **18:46**; 2 Kings **4:29**; **9:1**; Job **38:3**; **40:7**; Isaiah **8:9²**; Jeremiah **1:17**; Nahum **2:1+**

(b) put x on him

(c) dress

(d) wrap

(e) equipped (2 Samuel **21:16**)

girdle waistband, broad belt

give (a) frequently *give* in the normal sense

(b) *allow*: To *give someone to do something* means to *let them do it*

(c) *offer, make available*

glory/glorify (a) often replaced with *honor*: as in Joshua **7:19**; Judges **4:9**; 1 Samuel **6:5**; 2 Kings **14:10**; 1 Chronicles **16:8**, **9**; **29:11**; 2 Chronicles **5:13**; Job **29:20**; Psalm **21:5**; **29:1**, **2**; **64:10**; **66:2**; **71:8**; **76:10**; **78:61**; **79:9**; **84:11**; **85:9**; **86:9**, **12**; **96:7**, **8**; **102:15**; **104:31**; **115:1**; **145:11**; **148:13**; Proverbs **16:31**; **25:27**; Isaiah **14:8**; **24:15**, **16**; **25:3**; **26:8**, **15**; **42:8**, **12**; **43:7**, **20**; **45:25**; **48:11**; **55:5**; **59:19**; **60:7**, **9**, **21**; **66:5**; Jeremiah **2:11**; **13:16**; **33:9**; Ezekiel **28:22**; **39:21**; Daniel **2:36**; **7:14**; Haggai **1:8**

(b) often replaced with *beauty/beautiful*: Psalm **45:13**; Isaiah **28:5**; Ezekiel **20:6**; **31:18**; Hosea **2:3**, **7**; **10:5**; Micah **1:15**; Zechariah **11:2**

(c) replaced with *splendor*: Isaiah **60:13**

go/went reserved for leaving a point of orientation. See also *bring/brought* above omitted as an indication of ingressive action

go into/went into (a) rendered *sleep/slept with*; the chosen English idiom appears in Genesis **16:2, 4; 19:7; 29:21, 23, 30; 30:3; 38:9, 16; 38:2, 9, 18, 26**; Deuteronomy **21:13**; Judges **15:1; 16:1**; 2 Samuel **11:4**; 1 Chronicles **7:23**; Psalm **51** (heading); Ezekiel **23:44**; Amos **2:7**.

(b) in two instances rendered *married*: 2 Samuel **17:25**; 1 Chronicles **2:21**; Note Deuteronomy **21:13**.

GOD (a) capital and lower case for the true God

(b) lower case in reference to pagan gods

(c) lower case in reference to, say, “*a powerful one*”: Samuel in 1 Samuel **28:13**

(d) lower case for leaders under God: Psalm **82:6**

(e) When in all capitals, it covers the Tetragrammaton: Exodus **23:17**. By custom, when reading Hebrew, the word **יְהוָה**, “*my Lord*,” is actually said in place of the Tetragrammaton (*Qere*) so as not to risk profaning God’s personal name. Occasionally the Hebrew word for “*my Lord*” appears ahead of the Tetragrammaton. To avoid saying “*my Lord*” twice in a row, the Hebrew word for “*God*” is said instead. In the *ketiv*, the pointing for “*God*” (**אֱלֹהִים**) is placed on the consonants of the ineffable name as a reminder to the reader (*Qere*). We have followed English translation tradition in presenting that combination as “*Lord GOD*.”

The combined expression appears some 197 times, particularly in Ezekiel (125): Exodus **22:17**; Deuteronomy **9:26**; Joshua **7:6**; Judges **6:22; 16:28**; 2 Samuel **7:18, 19, 20, 22**; 1 Kings **2:26; 8:53**; Psalm **71:5, 16; 89:8**; Jeremiah **1:6; 2:19, 22; 4:10; 7:20; 14:13; 32:16, 25; 44:26; 46:10²**; Ezekiel **2:4; 3:11, 27; 4:14; 5:7; 6:2, 11; 7:2, 5; 8:1; 9:8; 11:2, 7, 13, 16, 17; 12:8, 18, 22, 25, 28; 13:3, 8, 9, 13; 14:4, 6, 16; 15:6; 16:23, 30, 63; 17:9, 19, 22, 23; 18:23, 30; 20:3, 17, 30, 46, 49; 21:24, 26, 28; 22:3, 19, 28; 23:22, 32, 46, 49; 24:2, 6, 9, 24; 25:2, 8, 12, 15; 26:3, 5, 15, 19; 27:31; 28:2, 6, 12, 20, 24, 25; 29:3, 8, 13, 16; 30:1, 10, 13, 22; 31:10, 15; 32:3, 11, 31; 33:11, 25; 34:1, 11, 17, 20, 31; 35:3, 10; 36:2, 4, 13, 37; 37:3, 9, 12, 19, 20; 38:2, 10, 14, 17; 39:1, 10, 13, 20, 25; 36:2, 4, 13, 37; 37:3, 9, 12, 20; 38:2, 10, 14, 17; 39:1, 10, 13, 20, 25; 43:18; 44:6, 8, 15; 45:9, 15, 18; 46:1, 16; 47:13, 23; 48:29; Amos **3:8, 11; 4:2; 6:8; 7:1, 2, 4, 5; 8:1, 11; 9:5, 8**; Obadiah **1**; Micah **1:2**; Habakkuk **3:19**; Zephaniah **1:7**; Zechariah **9:14**.**

graven replaced with *carved* as with *images*.

great reserved as much as possible for quality
size gets covered by *big, large, etc.*

hand for a literal body part

dropped as a Hebraism for personal agency (God or people)

harlot/harlotry replaced with *prostitute/prostitution*. *Whore* carries a disgusting connotation.

harp for *kenor* in Isaiah **16:11; 23:16; 24:8; 30:32**; Ezekiel **26:13** and when combined with *nibal*.
See below under *lyre*.

hate In some texts with love-hate expressions, we have taken the usage to mean degree put for positive-negative: cp. Genesis **29:30** about loving Rachel and hating Leah; Malachi **2:1-2** about Jacob and Esau.

NOTE: This kind of weakening, strengthening, and bending of terms comes from the Hebrew tendency to use words for what is a lesser degree of the same thing, what grows out of the same thing, what is like the same thing.

CV has avoided using *hate* in the mouth of good people toward evil ones (except in Psalm **138:21**, “*hate those who hate you*”), using *despise* or perhaps *detest* in many cases.

CV lets it stand for evil people’s attitude toward the good, for good people’s attitude toward the beliefs and practices of evil people.

he References to God and angels are always masculine in scripture; hence, in this matter we have not yielded to the modern push for using inclusive language even for God himself. A translator is supposed to translate what the text says rather than what he may want it to say or what the readers expect or believe.

head(s) of fathers’ houses(s): ancestral houses

heal allowed to have a wider usage than for physical wounds: heal the land
not disease, which calls for “*getting better*”

hear used for hearing a sound, not for listening or obeying

(*whole*) *heart* replaced with “*all (his/their/your/my/our) heart*” to avoid awkward alliteration

heaven (a) God’s dwelling place

(b) the realm of the stars as in “the host of heaven”

(c) where contrasts with atmosphere (Psalm **19:1-7**)

Sky covers where clouds are and birds fly (perhaps where stars shine). *Heaven* has to be retained in parallelisms with *sky*: Deuteronomy **33:26**; Psalm **108:4**; **148:4**.

heed replaced with *listen to*, *pay attention to*

hence not used

herald messenger

herein not used, along with *therein*, *wherein*

he’s contraction for *he is*, *he has*, or *he does*

high places not necessarily high, as in elevated, since they were located in towns and watchtowers (2 Kings **17:9**)

(a) elevated places in some sense: Judges **5:18**; Habakkuk **3:19**;

(b) rendered “*local shrines*” where the LORD was evidently worshiped, because good Southern Kingdom kings carried on reforms with added comments that they did not “*take away the high places*”: Asa (1 Kings **15:14**), Jehoshaphat (1 Kings **22:43**), Jehoash (2 Kings **12:3**), Amaziah (2 Kings **14:4**), Azariah (2 Kings **15:4**), Jotham (2 Kings **15:35**), the later Manasseh (2 Chronicles **33:17**) as well as 1 Kings **3:2, 3** (prior to the Temple), 2 Chronicles **15:17**; **32:12**; **33:17**; Isaiah **36:7**;

(c) called “*pagan shrines*” where other gods were worshiped perhaps alongside the LORD: Leviticus **26:30**; Numbers **33:52**; 1 Kings **11:7**; **12:31, 32**; **13:1, 32, 33**; **14:23**; 2 Kings **16:4**;

17:9, 29; 18:4; 21:3; 23:5, 8, 9, 13, 15, 19, 20; 2 Chronicles 11:15; 14:3, 5; 17:6; 20:33; 28:4, 25; 31:1; 33:3, 19; 34:3; Psalm 78:58; Isaiah 15:2; Jeremiah 7:31; 32:35; Ezekiel 6:3, 6; 16:16, 39; Hosea 10:8; Amos 7:9;

(d) pagan shrines simply called “*shrines*” because of context: 2 Kings 17:11;

(e) simply called “*shrines*” because unclear in 2 Kings 17:32; 2 Chronicles 15:17;

(f) made into a proper name: *Bamoth* Baal (Number 22:41).

hin entered roughly as 1½ gallons: Exodus 29:40²; Leviticus 19:36; 23:13; Numbers 15:4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10; 28:5, 7, 14*

holy what has to do with God and his associates

what is “*set apart*” to a special use: Numbers 6:20 (“*set aside* for the priests”)

Holy of Holies replaced with *the Most Holy Place* for the inner sanctuary of the Tabernacle, the Temple that replaced it, and Ezekiel’s future Temple. Newer readers might not be acquainted with the “x of x” formula for Hebrew superlatives: Exodus 26:33; 1 Kings 8:6; 7:50; 6:16; 2 Chronicles 3:8, 10; 4:10; Ezekiel 41:21, 23; cp. the more familiar “*King of Kings*” and “*Lord of Lord*” (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; 19:16). CV has kept *the Holy Place* to designate the corresponding outer sanctuary of the Tabernacle/Temple.

homage used in place of *worship* when offered to other than deity

homer 10 bushels (Leviticus 27:16; Ezekiel 45:11)

horn applies to the raised corners on an altar (Exodus 29:12), ram’s horn used for signaling (Exodus 19:13), ox horns (1 Kings 22:11), musical instruments (replaced with *trumpets*: Leviticus 23:24),

host LORD/God of Hosts, very frequently (with capital H)

population: 2 Kings 25:22

great number: 2 Chronicles 30:18; Esther 10:3

army: Exodus 6:26; 1 Kings 20:28; 2 Chronicles 14:11; 32:7

left as *host* when in reference to the stars as in “*the starry host*”

hour used only for a specific amount of time; replaced with *time* for an indefinite amount of time (vs. *time* for a longer time frame as in *the day of*)

house called *house* for a private dwelling (2 Kings 8:2; 1 Chronicles 13:7)

called *house* or *household* for extended families

called *house* with “*ancestral houses*,” which adds historical lineage to present extended family (2 Kings 10:30)

called *palace* for royal residences (2 Kings 20:18)

called *Temple* for Yahveh’s house (2 Kings 21:7) or pagan temple (2 Kings 5:18)

called *Tabernacle* sometimes for God’s house before the temple was built: 1 Samuel 1:6, 9, 24; 3:3, 15; 2 Samuel 12:20; 1 Chronicles 6:31

called *house* for structures/huts associated with high places (2 Kings 17:32; 23:19)

household replaced in what seem to be smaller groupings as in sacrificial offerings and Passover observances

however reduced usage; replaced by *but*

humble yourselves when combined with not working—literally “*afflicting your souls*”—becomes *fasting* (Psalm 35:13; Isaiah 58:3, 5, 10). Translations have used *afflict yourselves*. See Leviticus 16:29, 30, 31; 23:27-28; Numbers 29:7.

if replaces the more formal *whether* for introducing indirect questions: Ezra 5:17 (“*see if King Cyrus issued a decree*”); Genesis 8:8; 18:21; 24:49; 27:21; 37:32; 42:33; Exodus 4:18; 22:8; Leviticus 14:2; Numbers 11:23; 13:19³; Judges 2:22; 1 Samuel 20:10; 2 Samuel 12:22; 2 Kings 1:2; Esther 4:14; Job 6:28; Psalm 14:2; 53:2; 139:24; Ecclesiastes 2:19; 9:1; 11:6²; Song of Solomon 6:11; 7:12; Lamentations 1:12; Joel 2:14; Malachi 3:10. English speakers seldom distinguish between *if* for condition and *whether* for indirect question. They use *if* to introduce both—as Greek does with *ἐι*.

in order that reduced to simple infinitive to indicate purpose whenever that is sufficiently clear

inquire ask the LORD vs. inquire from the LORD

iniquity often replaced by *sin* or *sinfulness* except where *sin* occurs in close proximity

isn't reduced usage, but kept particularly in third-person-singular questions.

Israelite to reduce the frequent use of the term among a whole multitude of gentiles, *CV* has

(a) dropped it altogether (1 Kings 12:24),

(b) replaced it with *people* (1 Kings 6:13; Nehemiah 11:3; 2 Chronicles (31:5),

(c) used *Israel* instead in very many verses like Leviticus 7:36; 9:3; 10:11; 11:1; 16:16, 19, 21, 34; 17:14; 23:43; Numbers 8:14; 9:4; 10:12; 14:10; 19:2; 20:19; 21:10; Deuteronomy 10:6; Joshua 4:18; 5:1; 11:11; 12:1; 14:1; 24:32; Judges 11:16; 1 Samuel 29:1; 2 Samuel 25:11; 1 Kings 20:27; 2 Kings 13:21; 18:4; 2 Chronicles 5:10; 7:2; 8:8; 11:13; 13:16; 33:9; 34:33; 35:18; Nehemiah 8:14, 17; 9:1; 13:6; Isaiah 17:9; Jeremiah 16:14; 23:7; Ezekiel 2:3; Hosea 1:16,

(d) used *Israeli* in Exodus 12:42; 13:19; 14:2; 31:15; Numbers 35:29; 39:32; Leviticus 22:18; 24:10²; 25:46, 55; Numbers 25:6; 26:4; 35:15; 1 Samuel 13:21; 2 Samuel 17:25; 21:2; 2 Chronicles 35:17; Ezra 3:1; 6:21; 7:13; Nehemiah 2:10; 7:79; Ezekiel 4:13; 14:4; 47:22; Daniel 1:3.

it (a) not *he* or *she* unless in reference to something male or female. So “*wisdom*,” for example, would not be “*she*.” English has lost grammatical gender, and retains sex-reference only in personal, intensive, and reflexive pronouns for the third person singular. The rest are “*gender neutral*.”

(b) not used in expletive constructions involving *it*. Such formats use *it* to indicate that the infinitive subject is coming up later: “*It is necessary to obey*.”

Jehovah not used; an artificial name created from combining the consonants of the Tetragrammaton (יהוה), God’s personal name, and the vowels from lord (יְהוָה). The result is יהוה (Jehovah). See *Yahveh infra*.

just *CV* has allowed several misplaced *just*’s as per common usage: Leviticus 11:6; Numbers 23:13; Deuteronomy 2:35; Joshua 17:17; 2 Kings 5:13, etc.

kid (a) usually in reference to a young goat: Genesis **38:17, 20**; Exodus **23:19; 34:26**; Deuteronomy **14:21**; Judges **6:19; 13:19**

(b) in reference in a young child: Proverbs **29:15**

kill (a) replaced by *put to death* in cases of official execution

(b) *murder* for killing people illegally

(c) *kill* and *slay* for animals and people loosely speaking

know/knew not used for sexual relations

lament besides *lament*, CV uses *chant a dirge*, and *mourn*.

land sometimes replaced with *country* (Jeremiah **33:11**)

Law capitalized in reference to the Law of Moses, particularly as the full set of requirements

leaven replaced with *yeast*, *without yeast* (for *unleavened*)

leaven retained only in the name for The Feast of Unleavened Bread

lest (a) replaced by *for fear that*, *so that . . . not* as introductions to fear clauses. Ex. “lest you trip over a rock” becomes “so you’ll never trip on a rock” (Psalm **91:12**).

let (a) reserved mostly for meaning “allow”

(b) avoided as a translation for the Hebrew jussive, a third-person imperative: “Let him do so and so”: Psalm **68:1-2; 71:13; 90:17; 109:7; 149:2-9**, etc.

(c) *let’s* for exhortation (“let us”).

lethech entered approximately as 5 bushels: Hosea **3:2***

lie/lay the distinction has been maintained: *lie* for intransitive, *lay* for transitive.

like (a) used as a preposition

(b) as a conjunction in place of *as*: “*like God instructed him*” (Genesis **7:9**; 1 Samuel **12:15**; Ezra **4:3**; Esther **5:8**; Job **16:4**; Psalm **119:116**)

listen several times omitted as a seemingly unnecessary call to attention, including Genesis **23:6; 26:43**; Exodus **4:1**; Deuteronomy **1:45; 4:30; 8:20; 9:1; 13:2; 17:2**; 1 Kings **12:15**; 2 Kings **14:11; 18:28**; 2 Chronicles **13:4**; Psalm **102:2**;

log entered approximately as 1 pint: Leviticus **14:10, 12, 15, 21, 24***

Lord capitalized in reference to God

lord (a) a term of deference to another person; an honorific;

(b) replaced in a few cases with *Sir* (Genesis **19:18; 23:6, 11; 24:11**; Judges **4:18**; 1 Samuel **1:26**)

(c) used in place of *Lord* for Zechariah’s address to the angel in **1:3; 4:1, 13; 6:3**

LORD replacement for God’s personal name, which became ineffable in Jewish custom sometime before the translation of the Septuagint (LXX) a couple centuries before Christ. We have followed convention in using all capitals to indicate the Tetragrammaton (יהוה) in the Hebrew text. See also *GOD* for a listing of the texts that combine *Lord* and *LORD*. To see most places where *Yahveh* actually occurs in the original, see “The Yahveh Covenant,” a variant of *The Conversational Old Testament* that retains the use of God’s personal name.

loud voice replaced with *shout*

- love* when possible, replaced with *care about*, *care* in order to help avoid the modern romantic implication the English term has picked up
- lyre* (*nibal*) paired with *harp* (*kenor*) in 1 Kings **10:12**; 1 Chronicles **10:12**; **13:8**; **16:5**; **15:16**, 21, 28; **16:5**; **25:1**, 6; 2 Chronicles **5:12**; **9:11**; **13:8**; **15:16**, 21, 28; **16:5**; **20:28**; **29:25**; Nehemiah **12:27**; Psalm **33:2**; **57:8**; **71:22**; **81:2**; **93:2**; **108:2**; **150:3**; Isaiah **5:12**; Daniel **3:5**; used instead of the more familiar and general word *harp* in Isaiah **14:11**; Amos **5:23**; **6:5**. See *harp* above for instances rendered with harp
- lust/s* replaced by *drives* or *desires*
- man* (a) retained for man or husband (מִן) and when in contrast to woman or child;
 (b) when in contrast to animal or idea, frequently replaced by *a person*, *people*, *mortal*, a plural of some kind, indefinite pronouns, *you/they* advisedly, or *I/we* when the reference is not in contrast to God, woman, or child. “If ~~a man~~/someone that’s unclean from a corpse touches any of these, will they become unclean?” (Haggai **2:12**, 13; cp. Numbers **35:52**; Isaiah **13:14**; Jeremiah **50:16**);
 (c) replaced by “*people*”: Genesis **1:26**; **5:1**, 2; **6:4**, 13;
 (d) replaced by some more specific term: *archer* (1 Kings **22:34**), *troops*;
- many* sometimes replaced with *a lot of* or *lots of*
- marry* replaces *take a wife* unless someone besides the future husband is making the arrangement
- master* (a) sometimes dropped in appositives to moderate the “heavy” feel to the account (1 Chronicles **12:19**); see also Genesis **24:22**, 42; 2 Kings **5:25**;
 (b) replaced with *husband*: Genesis **39:16**; Judges **19:3**, 26, 27;
 (c) replaced with *owner* in Judges **19:22**;
 (d) the same Hebrew word (מֶלֶךְ) is often rendered *lord* and *husband*.
 In Genesis **18:12**, CV has Sarah say, “My husband [lord] is old too.” *Sir* would have been appropriate except the sentence does not carry a vocative. *Lord* appears in brackets so as not to lose the connection with 2 Peter **3:6**, where *Sir* can appear but needs *lord* bracketed in to connect it with Genesis **18:12**.
- may* (a) reserved for contingent action, an oath, or a wish;
 (b) replaced with *can* for requesting permission as per informal English usage
- maybe* used in preference to *perhaps*
- memorial portion* traditional translation replaced with *God’s portion* since the rest of sacrifice or sacred loaves were for the priests to eat. The memorial terminology derives from the Hebrew root meaning “to remember” (God) that labels the items involved.
- messenger* replaced with *ambassador* in cases of official business between political entities
- mighty* not so frequently used today; CV often replaces with more natural terms like *powerful*, *great*, *elite*, strong; kept in *Almighty God*
- mine* used only as a predicate possessive adjective (“*is mine*”), not as an attributive possessive adjective (“*mine eyes*”)

- naïve* a term kept in Proverbs 7:7; 9:4, 13, 16; 14:18 but replaced by *simple* in Psalm 116:6; Proverbs 1:6; 8:5; *simpleton* in Proverbs 1:22; and *simpleminded* in Job 5:2; Proverbs 1:32; 14:15; 27:12.
- name* *Name* appears in a host of expressions that call attention to identity: “*My name is feared among the nations*” (Malachi 1:14). It is not used as a manner of speaking in English. *CV* frequently replaces *name* with a pronoun: “*I’m a great King to be respected the world over!*” Cp. phrases like “*praise my name*,” which can become “*praise me*”; “*stood in awe of me*” becomes “*showed me reverence*” (Malachi 5:9), etc.
- nation* often replaces *land*
- nations* replaced a few times with *Gentiles*: Deuteronomy 32:43; 2 Samuel 22:50; Nehemiah 5:8; Psalm 2:1; 18:49; Isaiah 9:1; 11:10; 42:1, 6; 49:6
- (*fall on someone’s*) *neck* replaced by *hugged*
- neighbor* kept as a term for someone living nearby; otherwise replaced with *another*, *citizen*, *fellow*, *friend*, *one another*, *someone*, or omitted: Proverbs 26:19; 29:15; Jeremiah 7:5; 9:8; 49:10, etc.
- nor* dropped even when combined with *neither*; replaced by *or*
- not* (a) negatives in general appear before what they negate
(b) double negatives are not used, including “can’t help but.”
(c) not used as part of a litotes construction
(d) used ahead of the verb instead of the direct object
- O* (a) usually omitted before vocatives as in current English usage: Hosea 5:1
(b) retained with *King* in Numbers 21:17; Nehemiah 2:3; Daniel 4:22, 27; 5:10, 18; 6:15; Joel 2:21
- oak* translation used for עֵץ הָאֵל in Genesis 35:8 (Oak of Weeping); Joshua 19:33 (the Oak in Zaanannim); Isaiah 2:13; 6:13b; 44:14; Ezekiel 27:6; Hosea 4:13; Amos 2:9; Zechariah 11:2.
translation used for עֵץ הָאֵל in proper names in Genesis 12:6; 13:18; 14:13; 18:1; Deuteronomy 11:30; Judges 4:11; 1 Samuel 10:3; also Oak of the Pillar (Judges 9:6, 37)
translation replaced with *terebinth tree* for עֵץ הָאֵל in Genesis 35:4; Judges 6:11, 19; 2 Samuel 18:9², 10, 14; 1 Kings 13:14; 1 Chronicles 10:12; Isaiah 1:30; 6:13a; Ezekiel 6:13a; Hosea 4:13; also the name Valley of Elah 1 Samuel 17:2, 19; 21:9.
translation replaced with *terebinth tree* עֵץ הָאֵל in Isaiah 1:29; 57:5; 61:3; Ezekiel 31:14.
translation replaced with *terebinth* for עֵץ הָאֵל in Joshua 24:26 and in the place name terebinth in Zaanannim in Joshua 19:33.
Note: the two words here translated *terebinth* do not refer to the same tree as the ones translated *oak* because the terebinth word occurs with the oak word in Isaiah 6:13 and Hosea 4:13.
- ocean* used several times instead of *sea* when the reference seems to be broader than the inland bodies
of water known to people in Old Testament times
- Oh* (a) sometimes, so spelled, for wishes: Psalm 25:21
(b) replaced by circumlocution

(c) *O* is used sparingly with vocatives: Numbers **21:17**; Daniel **4:22, 27**; **16:15**; Joel **2:21**.

of (a) omitted for introducing appositives when clear without *of*

(b) replaced as often as possible with another appropriate English preposition. The Hebrew construct appears so often, the English *of*, its closest equivalent, shows up very frequently, especially when combined with other Hebrew sources for *of* in English. Apostrophe *s* can replace “*of* ____” if there is no subsequent modifier on the object of the preposition: “the family of Obed-edom” can become “*Obed-edom’s family*” (1 Chronicles **13:14**); otherwise, it cannot be transformed: “*the house of Obed-edom the Gittite*” (1 Chronicles **13:13**).

(c) replaced frequently with *’s* or *s’*

Its prevalence comes, again, from the extensive use of Hebrew nouns in construct. The idiom joins two nouns for referents that have some kind of relationship: apposition, one causing the second, one being the material the other is made of (“an idol of wood”), one as the source of the other (Saul of Gibeah”), one being a characteristic or status of the other (“*Moses, the man of God*”)

oil in most cases, *oil* is *olive oil* or at least includes it. In cases where it is involved in food, fuel, or sacrifices, CV has said *olive oil*. In cases of anointing, another ingredient was present with it, as when called *anointing oil* (Exodus **25:6**; **30:23-33**; **35:8**). At any rate, *oil* did not cover as many things as modern readers might assume.

omer/’omer entered approximately as $\frac{1}{10}$ ephah/bushel: Exodus **16:16, 18, 22, 32, 33, 36***

one (a) replaced by *someone*, *a person*, or some other indefinite term in place of *one* by itself

(b) the only pronoun capitalized for reference to deity (One): Genesis **30:2**, *etc.*

only CV has allowed a few “misplaced *only’s*,” as often occurs in everyday English. The *only* occurs ahead of the verb instead of the restricted adjective: Genesis **14:24**; Exodus **12:20**; Numbers **12:2**; **22:35**; Joshua **17:3**; Isaiah **5:10**; Ezekiel **14:14, 16**; Haggai **2:16²**; Zechariah **2:8**. (cp. “misplaced *even* or *just*” above)

or appositional *or* not used except in 1 Chronicles **11:4**; Ezekiel **45:14**

own The intensive reflexive pronouns *my own*, *our own*, *etc.*, have sometimes been added in place of the Hebrew simple pronoun: “*My own son wants to kill me*” (2 Samuel **16:11**). In other places, *own* has not been inserted with the intensive pronoun (*his own*, *their own*, *etc.*) because it sets up too much of a contrast (vs. someone else) in addition to simply “reflecting” the subject of the clause.

parents in place of “father and mother”

Passover CV has adopted the expression *celebrate/keep Passover* without the article in Numbers **9:2-3, 14**; Deuteronomy **16:1**; Joshua **5:10**; 2 Kings **23:21**; 2 Chronicles **30:1, 2, 5**; **35:1, 16, 17, 18**; Ezra **6:19**

people of the land common people: 2 Chronicles **33:13, 20**; 2 Kings **21:24**; **25:3, 21**; Jeremiah **34:20**

people for indefinite reference in the plural: indefinite reference can be the point of *men*, *somebody*, plural articular substantive adjectives, plural articular substantive particles; cp. *person* below

person/s a replacement for *man/men* when more general than males

please (a) in place of *I beg of you*

(b) added to soften the imperative

pregnant for *with child*

prince where the word often appears, *CV* replaces it with *rulers* (Genesis **34:1**; 1 Samuel **10:10**), *leaders* (1 Chronicles **28:1**), *commander* (1 Samuel **18:30**), *chief* (Deuteronomy **33:16**), *officers* (1 Kings **9:22**), and *officials* (Esther **1:16**) as well as retaining it in places like 2 Samuel **3:38**, *etc.* Biblical translations use *prince* for a variety of posts besides someone in line for royalty; retained in *CV* especially in Ezekiel and Daniel.

prison for lengthy incarceration; *jail* for a temporary stay

prostitution often preceded with the added word *religious* where prostitution serves as a picture of polytheism and religious unfaithfulness of Yahveh. That unfaithfulness did often involve fornication. Cp, a similar issue with *ceremonially* clean/unclean above.

pursue replaced by *chase*

put to death replacement expression for *slay* when the execution comes at the behest of official action

quickly avoided whenever possible; replaced with *quick* at the front of the sentence or *hurry and, soon,*

right away, or *now* in the adverb position; left more often in poetic material

reap harvest (Genesis **26:12**)

reapers harvest crew (Ruth **2:3-14**; 2 Kings **4:18**)

reed/rod entered as 9ft measurements (𐤓𐤓𐤕): Ezekiel **40:3**, 5, 6², 7², 8; **41:8**; **42:16²**, 17, 18, 19*

region used instead of *world* or *earth* in a few places, notably with the Babylonians and their conquest of a large swath of nations to their south (Jeremiah **25:26**; **51:7**, 49; Lamentations **4:12**; Habakkuk **1:6**) as well as the territory affected by the great famine in Joseph's time (Genesis **41:56**, 57).

rejoice not often used in everyday conversation; replaced with "celebrate," "take comfort" (Job **6:10**), "be happy" (Psalm **13:5**), "be glad" (Psalm **68:3**)

(*not*) *remember* In places where God is said not to remember sins, for instance, *CV* has used wording like "*not keep in mind*" because he is said to be omniscient (Job **11:6**; Ezekiel **3:20**; **33:13**).

repent sometimes replaced in reference to God because it implies having made a mistake: Joel **2:13**; (Genesis **6:6**). It is either an anthropopathic expression or the verb includes the meaning "*saddened by.*"

revolt replaces *rebel* in international relations: Genesis **14:4**; 2 Kings **1:1**; **3:5**, 7; **8:20**, 22; **18:7**, 20; **24:1**, 20; 2 Chronicles **21:8**, 10²; **36:13**; Ezra **4:15**, 19; Nehemiah **2:19**; **6:6**; Jeremiah **52:3***

righteous/righteousness replaced as often as possible with *good/upright* and *goodness/uprightness*. The older term has become a “religious” word, sometimes used with a negative connotation.

Sabbath (a) capitalized for the Jewish Sabbath day

(b) lower case for sabbath years or other usages: Leviticus **23:24**; **25:6**; 2 Chronicles **35:21**

sackcloth replaced with *burlap*

saints replaced with *(his) holy people* because the term has been specialized for those within God’s people who meet specific qualifications

salute replaced by *greet*

say/said (a) left out along with other introductions to direct discourse in dialogues. Change of lines with new quotation marks indicates the change of speakers—unless such an arrangement creates ambiguity some way (Judges **19:18**). *Said* falls out as well ahead of direct discourse; the quoted words in quotations marks and italics make it plain that the speaker has “said” (Judges **19:10**; Daniel **2:24, 25**).

(b) replaced with *told* if there is a commanding element in the context

(c) often replaced with *ask* when *said* appears ahead of a question

(d) replaced with other more specific words to create variety of expression: *shout* (2 Samuel **10:10**), *cry out* (Judges **16:20**; 2 Samuel **18:33**), *consult* (Esther **1:13**), *confront* (Judges **12:1**; Ezekiel **16:1**), *confess* (1 Samuel **7:6**).

This practice creates greater variety of expression and makes more specific indications of action. See a similar rationale for *Orchard of Eden* above.

saying omitted as a free-standing participle that serves as a quotation mark at the beginning of direct discourse, especially when it makes for redundancy after “*He spoke to ___, saying . . .*”

sea (a) used for the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, and the Salt Sea (Dead Sea); *lake* covers the Sea of Chinnereth and Lake Huron.

(b) *Ocean* covers 32 places that apply to more than the known bodies of water in Old Testament times: Genesis **1:2, 10, 22, 26, 28**; **9:2**; Exodus **20:11**; Deuteronomy **30:23**; Nehemiah **9:6**; Job **9:9**; **11:9**; **36:30**; **38:8, 16**; Psalm **8:8**; **29:3**; **33:7**; **46:2**; **78:15**; **89:25**; **96:11**; **104:6, 25**; **107:23**; **146:6**; Proverbs **8:29**; **23:34**; **30:19**; Ecclesiastes **1:7²**; Isaiah **11:9**; Amos **5:8**.

(c) *CV* designates the *Eastern Sea* as the *Dead Sea*: Ezekiel **47:18**; Joel **2:20**; Zechariah **14:8**.

(d) *CV* designates the *(Great) Sea* as the *Mediterranean (Sea)*: Numbers **34:5, 6, 7**; Joshua **1:4**; **9:1**; **15:11, 12, 47**; **16:3, 6, 8**; **17:9, 10**; **23:4**; Psalm **80:11**; Ezekiel **47:10, 15, 19, 20**; Daniel **7:2**.

(e) *CV* designates the *Salt Sea* as the *Dead Sea*: Numbers **34:3, 12**; Deuteronomy **3:17**; Joshua **3:16**; **12:3**; **15:2, 5**; **18:14**.

(f) *CV* designates the *Western Sea* as the *Mediterranean Sea*: Deuteronomy **11:24**; **34:2**; Joel **2:20**; Zechariah **14:8**.

search look for

- seed* (a) used for plants seed
(b) not used for human descendants; replaced with *descendants* (Genesis 9:9; 12:7; 13:15), *offspring* (Genesis 3:15; 4:25), and the like
- seek* (a) replaced by *look for*
(b) *try to*, if conative: 1 Kings 22:25, “You’ll find out when you try to hide in some secret room.”
- seize* reduced usage; replaced with grab, arrest, capture
- selah* the marginal note of uncertain value used in the Hebrew text some 71 times in 36 Psalms—mostly before Psalm 90: 3:2, 4, 8; 4:2, 4; 7:5; 9:16, 20; 20:3; 21:2; 24:6, 10; 32:4, 5, 7; 39:5, 11; 44:8; 46:3, 7, 11; 47:4; 48:8; 49:13, 15; 50:6; 52:3, 5; 54:3; 55:7, 19; 57:3, 6; 59:5, 13; 60:4; 61:4; 62:4, 8; 66:4, 7, 15; 67:1, 4; 68:7, 19, 32; 75:3; 76:3, 9; 77:3, 9, 15; 81:7; 82:2; 83:8; 84:4, 8; 85:2; 87:3, 6; 88:7, 10; 89:4, 37, 45, 48; 140:3, 5, 8; 143:6. Also see Habakkuk 3:3, 9, 13. The notation may indicate an emotional break or an instrumental sforzando or interlude. The Septuagint understands it as a pause (?) (διάψαλμα). *CV* omits the word throughout.
- self* (a) sometimes replaces the Hebrew simple pronoun where it has a reflexive value, that is, “reflects” the subject of the clause
(b) Though Hebrew does not have distinctive intensive pronoun forms, *myself*, *themselves*, etc., we have inserted them into the text as per modern English usage. Hebrew uses a personal pronoun with the subject to create something of the same value: “*the man he*.”
(c) Reflexive pronouns are used only when they in fact “reflect” the subject of the sentence. *CV* does not follow the habit of substituting *myself* for *I* as if avoiding any hint of undue self-reference.
- seraphs* Anglicized plural instead of *seraphim*
- serpent* usually replaced by *snake*; if evidently poisonous, changed to *viper* or *adder*
- servant* Sometimes changed to a verb construction (1 Samuel 27:12); Often omitted, especially with appositives (Genesis 50:2; Exodus 14:31; Numbers 12:7, 1 Samuel 19:4; Jeremiah 29:29), or replaced with a whole range of more specific words: *advisor* (2 Samuel 13:31), *aide* (Genesis 39:5), *ambassador* (2 Samuel 10:4), *assistant* (Exodus 33:11), *attendant* (2 Chronicles 9:12), *commander* (1 Samuel 18:30), *everyone* (2 Samuel 3:38), *foreman* (Ruth 2:5), *the guard* (2 Samuel 11:9), *herdsmen* (Exodus 9:20), *laborer* (Job 1:15), *maid* (Genesis 16:2); *men* (1 Samuel 29:10), *messenger* (2 Kings 19:6), *officer* (2 Samuel 8:7), *official* (Genesis 41:7), *people* (Leviticus 35:42), *reaper* (Ruth 2:9), *sailor* (2 Chronicles 9:21), *slave* (Jeremiah 34:16), *someone* (Daniel 10:17); *steward* (2 Samuel 19:17; *subject* (Ezra 4:11), *warrior* (1 Chronicles 20:8), *woodsman* (2 Chronicles 2:8), *worker* (Nehemiah 5:10), *worshiper* (2 Kings 10:23). Seemingly every kind of subordinate person can be called a servant. The shift in *CV* creates more varied expression and moderates the “heavy,” antiquated feel of the content. That practice applies also to *command* and *master*.
- sex/go into/lie with/come near/uncover the nakedness of/approach/touch* covered with a variety of expressions: *commit adultery with* (Proverbs 6:29), *have intercourse with* (2 Samuel 12:11), *have sex with* (Genesis 19:32, 33, 34; 30:16; 38:9, 16, 18; Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Judges 15:1;

16:1; Isaiah 8:3; Ezekiel 23:6), *have sexual relations with* (Genesis 6:4; 16:2, 4; 29:21, 24, 30; 30:3; 38:2; 1 Samuel 1:19; 2 Samuel 12:24; 20:3; 1 Chronicles 2:21), *have relations with* (Genesis 4:25; Exodus 19:15; Ezekiel 23:44), *have carnal relations with* (Leviticus 19:20), *be with* (Genesis 20:4), 1 Samuel 21:4; 2 Samuel 13:20), *marry* (Deuteronomy 21:13), *sleep with* (Genesis 19:34, 35; 30:16; 39:7, 12; Job 31:10; Amos 2:7), *rape* (Genesis 39:14; 34:2; 2 Samuel 13:12, 14); *touch* (Genesis 20:6), *violate her* (Deuteronomy 22:29), *go into your father's bed* (Genesis 49:4).

shall (a) not used; replaced with *will*. Older idiom called for *shall* in first person and *will* in second and third person, and reverse usage for emphasis.

(b) replaced with English imperatives to cover Hebrew's idiomatic usage of the imperfect to indicate command or prohibition. "*Thou shalt not kill*" becomes "*Do not commit murder.*"

NOTE: For the last couple generations, English speakers have not used *shall* for first person and *will* for second and third person—with reversal for emphasis. Now, *will* covers all three persons and there is no emphasis by reversal; *shall* falls out altogether. Calling attention to that shift would not be necessary except for familiar biblical texts like the Ten Commandments—"*Thou shalt not steal.*" "*Don't steal*" gets rid of the archaic second person singular pronoun *thou*, replaces imperatival future with plain imperative, and eliminates the rare use of a pronoun with an imperative form—except occasionally for an especially strong demand.

ship used for larger seagoing vessels; *boat* covers smaller ones.

(the) *Shephelah* The Hebrew word does not appear in most English translations. It refers to the line of foothills between Israel's coastal plain and the central hill country. *CV* covers it with the expression "*the western foothills*" (+Deuteronomy 1:7; Joshua 9:1; 10:40; 11:2, 16^a; 12:8; 15:33; Judges 1:9; 1 Kings 10:27; 1 Chronicles 27:28; 2 Chronicles 1:15; 9:27; 26:10; 28:18; Jeremiah 17:26; 32:44; 33:13; Obadiah 19; Zechariah 7:7) everywhere except for Joshua 11:16^b ("*lowland,*" because it apparently designates an eastern territory between Mt. Seir and Mt. Hermon).

skillful replaced with *skilled*

sky replaces *heaven* for most references to other than God's "*dwelling place*";

kept in the singular; the plural perhaps became customary in English because the Hebrew word is dual

slay replaced by *put to death* as official action. Alternative expressions are *kill*, *slaughter* for animals and extreme casualties of warfare, and *murder* for personal vendettas.

sleep (a) not retained as a euphemism for *death* and *die* even though it is standard wording in 1 & 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles: 1 Kings 1:21; 2:10; 11:43; 14:20, 31; 15:8, 24; 16:6, 28; 22:40, 50; 2 Kings 8:24; 10:25; 13:9, 13; 14:16, 22, 29; 15:7, 22, 38; 16:20; 20:21; 21:18; 24:6; 2 Chronicles 9:31; 12:16; 14:1; 21:1; 26:23; 27:9; 28:27; 32:33; 33:20 ("*He slept with the ancestors*"). In shorter form, it happens also in Job 3:13?; Psalm 76:5, 6; 78:64; 90:5; Ecclesiastes 8:16?; and Daniel 12:2.*

(b) Retained as a euphemism for sexual relations in Genesis 19:8; 38:26; 2 Samuel 11:4; Psalm 51 heading; Amos 2:7; Jonah 1:5, 6*

smite replaced with *strike*: Zephaniah 3:14

sojourn replaced with *live a while*

so (a) used for purpose and not preceded by a comma: “*Bring them to me so I can bless them*” (Genesis 48:9);

(b) used for consequence with a comma preceding: “*The LORD had given the Egyptians a favorable attitude toward them, so they let them have what they asked for*” (Exodus 12:36); a semi-colon appears if punctuated subunits occur nearby. *So*, for an even greater break akin to *therefore* plus comma.

(c) often left out with consequence value as *because* has often been omitted when carrying causal value;

(d) expressed with degree and no comma: “*That’s why he was so angry with them*” (Zechariah 7:12);

(e) not used for manner

son (a) reserved, whenever possible, for direct male offspring.

replaced with *descendants* if for more distant “sons.” This variance affects the interpretation and translation of 2 Samuel 21:15-22 as to whether David and his troops killed four sons of Goliath or four descendants of “Rapha,” taken as a class noun for a group of giants at Gath rather than as a descriptor of Goliath the giant. 1 Chronicles 20:5 speaks of Lahmi the brother of the giant of Gath, which means that the four in the summary of 2 Samuel 21:22 would not be sons of “Goliath” but descendants of “Rapha.” The parallel text in 1 Chronicles 20:4-8 is correspondingly affected.

Phrases like *sons of disobedience* mean people characterized by disobedience. We have sought an alternative expression like *disobedient people* or some appropriate circumlocution.

(b) Son as a reference to Messiah is capitalized: “*You are my Son*” (< Psalm 2:7).

(c) *Sons of the prophets* in 2 Kings is replaced by *the school of the prophets*: 2:3, 5, 7, 15; 4:1, 38, (39); 5:22; 6:1; 9:1

(d) replaced with *child, etc.*, in the interests of inclusive language for singular usages. However, in Proverbs it is retained in the vocative because the document purports to be addressed to a son by a father. Where *my* precedes the vocative, *CV* drops it as less idiomatic for modern English.

(e) left as *sons of* when it carries the loose notion of *those associated with something or someone*, phrases like sons of the sanctuary, sons of the kingdom.

(f) rendered *successor* in Daniel 5:22 regarding Belshazzar because there were four kings between him and Nebuchadnezzar to whom he is connected in the passage. Belshazzar was actually the son of Nabonidus, a revolutionary that seized the throne in Babylon.

sons-in-law so spelled in keeping with formal practice despite the common use of the term as a single word in everyday speaking: Genesis 19:14; 46:26; Ruth 1:6, 7, 8.

sound (a) the translation for *kol* (קול) when not referring to a person’s voice

(b) rendered *voice* when involving a person

(c) omitted entirely in phrases like “*listen to ~~the voice of~~ the LORD.*”

spirit/Spirit (a) capitalized in reference to deity

(b) lower case for demeanor/attitude (Numbers 14:24),

(c) an aspect of a human person, or

(d) angels. In this last sense, *CV* has rendered 1 Kings 22:24 *spirit* because of the preceding discussions in the LORD's throne room, particularly 22:21-23, though the human false prophet would not have known about that heavenly interaction.

(e) translated *wind*: Jonah 1:4; 2 Kings 2:14?

(f) rendered *breath*: Genesis 7:15

stand in front of replaced by *withstand* (Exodus 9:11; Job 41:10)

understood to mean *serve* (Number 5:16; Psalm 69:19)

stranger foreigner

(*beginning of* __) *strength* (as a male sexual reference) expressed as *the one that first issued from x's "virility"*: Genesis 49:3 (Reuben to Jacob); Deuteronomy 21:17 (any father to his oldest son)

strong drink replaced with *alcohol*

supplication avoided; replaced by *prayer, petition, or plea*

swear *CV* lets oath formulas stand as worded instead of streamlining them all to a simpler equivalent like *I swear*. The wide variety of related oath forms include:

As sure as the LORD lives (1 Samuel 19:6; 28:20; 1 Kings 22:14; 2 Kings 5:16; Jeremiah 4:2; 5:2; 16:14; Hosea 4:15),

As sure as the LORD lives who brought the Israelites out of Egypt (Jeremiah 16:14; 23:7),

As sure as the LORD lives who brought the Israelites back from the countries up north where he'd banished them (Jeremiah 15:15; 23:8),

As sure as the LORD lives who made this life for us (Jeremiah 38:16),

As sure as the LORD lives who has redeemed me from distress (1 Kings 1:29),

As sure as the LORD lives and you live (1 Samuel 20:3; 2 Kings 4:30),

As I live (Numbers 14:21, 28; Deuteronomy 32:40; Isaiah 49:18; Jeremiah 22:24; 46:18; Ezekiel 5:11; 14:16; 16:48; 17:16, 19; 18:3; 20:3, 31, 33; 35:6, 11; Zephaniah 2:9),

As God lives (2 Samuel 2:27),

[*As sure as Baal lives* (Jeremiah 12:16)],

As sure as I swore by the LORD God of Israel (1 Kings 1:30),

I swear by myself (Genesis 22:16 + Hebrews 6:16; Exodus 32:13; 7:21; Psalm 110:4; Jeremiah 22:5; 49:13;),

I've sworn by my great name (Jeremiah 44:26),

Swear by him (Genesis 21:23; Leviticus 19:12; Deuteronomy 6:13),

Swear by the LORD (Deuteronomy 10:20), 1 Samuel 24:21),

Swear by God (1 Samuel 30:15; cp. 2 Chronicles 36:13; Nehemiah 13:5; Psalm 63:11),

Swear by the LORD God of earth and sky (Genesis 24:3),

Swear by the LORD and invoke Israel's God (Isaiah 48:1),

swear by the true God (Isaiah 65:16),

Swear by the LORD (1 Samuel **24:21**; 2 Samuel **19:7**; 1 Kings **2:8, 23, 42**; Isaiah **48:1**),
Swear by the LORD your God (Joshua **2:12**; 1 Kings **1:17**),
Swear in the LORD's name (1 Kings **22:16**; Zechariah **5:4**),
As sure as I've established the patterns of earth and sky (Jeremiah **33:25**),
(Jonathan made David) swear by his love for him (1 Samuel **20:17**),
As sure as you're alive, sir (1 Samuel **1:26**; 2 Samuel **14:19**),
By your life, king (1 Samuel **17:55**),
As sure as the new earth and sky will last (Isaiah **66:22**),
Swear by the wild gazelles or hinds (Song of Songs **2:7**),
Swear by the One that lives forever (Daniel **12:7**),
(The ones that) swear by the guilt of Samaria (Amos **8:14**),
As the way to Beersheba lives (Amos **8:14**),
As your god lives, Dan (Amos **8:14**),
(Swear to the LORD and) swear by Milcom too (Zephaniah **1:6**),
Don't swear by their gods (Joshua **23:7**),
I swear (Ezekiel **36:7**).

take/took used for going away from a viewpoint. Cp. *bring/brought*, *go/come* above for coming toward a viewpoint.

take a wife replaced with *marry* unless regarding a marriage arranged by a third party

talk to replaces *talk with*: Judges **14:7**

tell replaced by a more specific term like *explain* (1 Samuel **9:19**), *inform* (1 Kings **1:27**), *let (you) know* (1 Samuel **19:3**), *warn* (1 Samuel **3:13**)

teraphs Anglicized plural in place of *teraphim*; but replaced with *household gods* in Kings **23:24**; Zechariah **10:2**; and *household idols* in Genesis **31:19, 34**; Judges **18:14, 17, 20**; 1 Samuel **19:13, 16**; Ezekiel **21:21**; Hosea **3:4**

than (a) sometimes used as a preposition with objective case:

Genesis **39:9**; Job **30:1** ("*People younger than me make fun of me*"); **32:4**; Numbers **14:21**; Psalm **61:2**; Jeremiah **31:11**). The tendency to conceive of *than* as a preposition shows up, for instance, in the March/April issue of the *Reader's Digest*, p4, "*Our neighbor, a much better gardener than me . . .*"

(b) otherwise, a coordinate conjunction with same case after as before: "*There's nobody greater in this house than I am*" (Genesis **39:9**), but not without a subsequent pro-verb ("*There's nobody greater than I*"; pedantic).

that/this (a) *that* as a demonstrative for aforesaid (vs. *this* as demonstrative for to be said): Ezra **10:5**; Joshua **10:13**; Ecclesiastes **2:15**; Isaiah **58:5**

(b) (*that*) distant demonstrative

(c) (*that*) conjunction almost always omitted ahead of indirect discourse

(d) (*that*) relative pronoun usually omitted in relative clauses when *that* is the direct or indirect object within its clause

- the* (a) usually covers the Hebrew article
 (b) replaced with *a* when the Hebrew article indicates what is definite to the speaker though not the hearer. That is the rationale for saying, “*A virgin will conceive . . .*” (Isaiah 7:14; cp. Genesis 35:4; 2 Kings 21:7). Another way to put it is to consider the article as with a noun typical of its class—a class with only one *עלמה* in it if the term is understood the way the LXX translators took it and used *παρθένος* to cover it (as cited in Matthew 1:23).
 (c) replaced with *a* or a plural noun when denoting a noun typical of its class (See *supra* under “Features of Contemporary English.”)
- thence* not used, along with *hence*, *whence*, *hither*, *thither*, *whither*, and perhaps other archaic directional terms.
- there* (a) used mostly as an adverb for location: “*I buried Leah there*” (Genesis 49:31, *etc.*).
 (b) reduced usage as an expletive compared to conversational usage. In such cases, *there* indicates that the subject is coming up later: “*There’s no pasture in Canaan*” (Genesis 47:4; Exodus 7:19, *etc.*).
- therefore* replaced with *so* or omitted
- therein* not used
- thereupon* not used
- they* sometimes used advisedly, that is, as equivalent to an indefinite pronoun: “*He won’t have anyone to sit on David’s throne. They’ll toss his dead body out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night*” (Jeremiah 36:30).
- this/that* *This* is a near demonstrative that we have also applied to what is to be said in contrast to *that* a distant demonstrative we have applied what was aforesaid.
- this day* today
- this night* tonight
- thither* not used
- tithe* replaced with *tenth* when obviously referring to non-coinage;
tithe retained when a more general reference to the concept of “*the sacred portion*” (Numbers 18:29): Numbers 18:21, 26, 28, 29; Deuteronomy 12:6; 2 Chronicles 31:6, 11, Nehemiah 10:37, 38²; 12:44; Amos 4:4; Malachi 3:8, 10
- transgress/transgression/transgressor* often replaced with shorter *sin/sinner* except where *sin/sinner* occurs nearby
- treacherous* replaced by *devious* because *treacherous* has come to be associated with impersonal things. *Treachery*, however, has been retained as a kind of thing persons do: Isaiah 33:1, *etc.*
- tremble* *Fear and trembling* has more the value of “*seriously respect*,” as shown by Daniel 6:26; but *CV* has retained the familiar expression. Aside from the set expression actual “trembling” is probably exaggerated for emphasis.
- unclean* expanded to *ceremonially unclean* to clarify that the subject is not particularly a matter of being dirty; left as *unclean* in contexts dealing with leprosy and bodily fluids

unicorn the King James term is replaced with *wild ox* (Deuteronomy 33:17; Job 39:9, 10; Psalm 22:21; 29:6; 92:10; Isaiah 34:7)

upon replaced with *on*

unto replaced with *to*

utter as a verb, replaced by *say*

utterly replaced with *really* or another modern relative superlative equivalent

valor especially in the recurrent expression “*mighty men of valor*” (18 times). *CV* usually replaces that phraseology with “*brave soldiers*,” though not exact equivalents.

vengeance replaced by *revenge*

very generally omitted along with other superlatives as part of modern English idiom that calls for restrained expression

omitted *very*: Genesis 13:2; 15:1; 27:54; Exodus 19:16; Deuteronomy 7:7; 13:6 (“~~very~~ close friend”); Joshua 23:1; Judges 6:6; 18:9; 1 Samuel 2:22; 5:19; 17:24; 2 Samuel 11:2; 13:3; 19:32; 18:17; 1 Kings 1:4, 15; 10:2; 4:29; 2 Kings 2:19; 1 Chronicles 18:8; 20:2; 22:15; 2 Chronicles 1:1; 7:8; 9:1, 9; 25:10; Job 8:7; Jonah 1:4; similarly in Zechariah 8:1, ‘*I’m extremely jealous for Zion; with great wrath I’m jealous for it.*’

vessel jar, basin, container, item, article, cup

voice (a) used only for human audible expression

(b) replaced with *sound* in passages that refer to other than human audible expression

(c) omitted in phrases like “~~the voice of the LORD~~” (as in eliminating body-part language and moving away from part-of-whole expressions), lifted up his voice and wept (sobbed, cried out loud, wailed; Genesis 39:15)

votive (offering) phrased as *an offering to fulfilling a vow*: Leviticus 7:16; 22:18; Numbers 29:39; Deuteronomy 12:6, 17, 26; 23:18

wait on (him) replaced with *depend on*: Jeremiah 7:10; Lamentation 3:25

walk replaced by *follow* if not physical walking: 1 Kings 16:31; 21:42; 2 Kings 8:10; 10:31; 17:19; replaced by *live* in Psalm 119:45; Proverb 10:9; 11:19; 13:19.

warrior soldier

water always given as singular; the habit of referring to “waters” may come from the fact that the Hebrew word for water is מַיִם, a dual form

weep/wept reduced usage; to avoid the less current expression, replaced most often by *cry* (Isaiah 33:7, etc.), then by *sobbing* (Isaiah 65:19), *grief* (Ezra 3:13), *pine away* (Job 30:31); let stand in the alliterative *weep and wail* (Jeremiah 9:10).

western foothills our rendering of the Shephelah, a series of foothills that run along between the Maritime Plain and the hill country to the east (2 Chronicles 1:15). The Shephelah is not a name that appears on typical maps of the Holy Land (cp. Jeremiah 33:13).

wherein not used

whereupon not used

whether replaced by *if* for introducing indirect questions

who replaced most of the time with *that* (except in non-restrictive clauses)

whoever instead of *whomever* (Exodus 4:13, “Send the message by *whoever else you want to.*”)

whom dropped completely. Since English has lost case usage except in pronouns, English speakers have become inept at using the “right” form of them. *Who* is one of those pronouns that people constantly “misuse.” We have freely misused it as in “*Who did you see?*” rather than “*Whom did you see?*” To avoid *whom*, we have even broken a rule about relative clauses by using *that* to introduce non-restrictive clauses: Daniel 9:21. “*Who will I dread?*” (Psalm 27:1); “*sand by the sea, that you can’t measure*” (Hosea 1:10). See comments under “English Changes” above.

wicked/wickedness greatly reduced in usage to match contemporary English—one that, when, used, connotes extreme degree;

replaced by several terms: *corrupt* (in connection with rulers), *perverse*, *evil*, *criminal*, *sin*, *sinful*, *sinfulness*, *sinner*s, *evildoers*; sometimes dropped if not needed (1 Samuel 30:22); kept in contexts about homosexuality (Genesis 13:13; 19:7; Judges 19:23; 20:3, 12)).

wilderness often in reference to relatively uninhabited areas perhaps because they were deserts

Wilderness kept when part of a place designation: *Wilderness of Paran* (Genesis 21:20-21), *etc.*

wilderness aside from place designations: Ezekiel 29:5; Hosea 2:3, 14; *etc.*

country: 1 Samuel 4:8, *etc.*

desert: Numbers 14:16, *etc.*, where the people of Israel were during their forty-year peregrination and where an actual desert situation apparently existed

countryside: Judges 8:7, 16; 17:28; 20:32; 25:4; Song of Solomon 8:5; Jeremiah 48:6; Joel 1:19; *etc.*, where pasturing places were involved.

open country: 1 Samuel 13:18; 17:28, where a wider expanse than one person’s own grazing area seems to be involved.

wither wilt (Psalm 1:3)

woe to replaced with *misfortune awaits*

word English usually uses *word* to refer to an individual grammatical word. *CV* has used a number of replacements for the same Hebrew term דְּבָרִים, including *message*, *memoirs* (in the title of Nehemiah because it is written in the first person), *chronicles* (2 Kings 23:28, *etc.*; see above under “Italics: added words”).

worship (a) reserved for deity. In today’s English, *worship* may describe exaggerated respect for someone, but that does not come up in the biblical text.

(b) sometimes replaced by phraseology like “*bowed in homage*” when indicating other than deity

worthy replaced with *deserve* whenever possible

wrath a word less used today; replaced with *anger* where possible

Yahveh replaced with *LORD* in all caps of two sizes; *GOD* in all caps of two sizes likewise replaces God’s personal name where it occurs beside the Hebrew word for *lord*, a combination that occurs especially in Ezekiel: Exodus 23:17; Deuteronomy 9:26; Joshua 7:7; Judges 6:22;

16:18; 2 Samuel 7:18, 20; 1 Kings 2:26; 8:53; Psalm 7:15, 16; 89:8; 141:8; Isaiah 1:24; 3:1, 15; 10:16, 23, 33; 19:4; 22:5, 12, 15; 28:16, 22; 30:15; 48:16; 49:22; 50:4; 56:8; 61:1, 11; 65:13, 15; Jeremiah 1:6; 2:19, 22; 4:10; 14:3; 32:17, 25; 44:26; 46:10²; Ezekiel 2:4; 3:11, 27; 4:14; 5:7; 6:3, 11; 7:2; 8:1; 9:8; 11:13, 16, 21; 12:10, 18, 23, 28; 13:3, 9, 13; 14:4; 15:6; 16:23, 30, 63; 17:9, 19; 18:23; 20:3, 27, 30, 47, 49; 21:24, 28, 46, 49; 22:3, 19, 28; 23:22, 32; 24:3, 6, 9, 24; 26:3, 15, 19; 27:3; 28:2, 6, 12, 22, 24, 25; 29:3, 8, 13, 16; 30:2, 10, 13, 22; 31:10, 15; 32:3, 11, 31; 33:11, 25; 34:2, 11, 17, 20, 31; 35:1, 11; 36:2, 4, 13, 37; 37:3, 9, 12, 19, 21; 38:3, 10, 14, 17; 39:1, 10, 13, 20, 25; 43:18; 45:15; 46:1, 16; 47:13, 23; 48:29; Amos 3:8, 11; 4:2; 6:8; 7:1, 2, 4, 5; 8:1, 11; Obadiah 1; Habakkuk 3:19; Zephaniah 1:7.

The exception to *LORD* in all caps is using *Yahveh* in some seventy places that stress the fact that Yahveh is his personal name: Exodus 6:2-3; 6:15-16; Psalm 68; Isaiah 18:7²; 42; 47:4; 51:15²; 54:4-8; Jeremiah 10:16; 15:16; 23:8; 26:9-24; 31:35; 32:18; 33:16; 44; 46:18; 49:15; 50:34; 51:19, 57; Ezekiel 48:35; Hosea 12-13; Amos 9:5-6. In Psalm 68:4 the shortened form *Yah* appears.

CV has used *v* instead of the more common *w* in transliterating the personal name of the God of Israel. That is the more common way of pronouncing *vav* in modern Hebrew.

yes supplied in place of restating the Hebrew verb, using the phrase “*behold*” or replacing some longer expression: Genesis 18:15; 22:17, 11; 24:58; 27:1, 18, 24; 29:5; 46:2; Exodus 3:4; Judges 13:11; 20:23, 28; 1 Samuel 3:4, 9, 10, 16; 9:12; 16:5; 22:12; 23:2, 12; 30:8; 2 Samuel 1:7; 2:20; 5:19; 12:19; 1 Kings 22:6; Jeremiah 1:12; 3:24; cp. Jeremiah 11:5 (“amen”)

you sometimes used advisedly, that is, as an indefinite pronoun: “*even though it’s more numerous than locusts you can’t count*” (Hosea 1:10; cp. 2 Samuel 17:19; Job 41:32; Jeremiah 46:23;).

A sizable set of additional words often used in Bible translation has been omitted, replaced with some expressions, or reduced in usage.