2 Peter

translationNotes

v6

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Introduction to 2 Peter

Part 1: General Introduction

Outline of the Book of 2 Peter

1. Introduction (1:1-2)
2. Reminder to live good lives because God has enabled us to (1:3-21)
3. Warning against false teachers (2:1-22)
4. Encouragement to prepare for the second coming of Jesus (3:1-17)

What is the Book of 2 Peter about?

Peter wrote this letter in order to encourage believers to live good lives and to warn them not to follow false teachers. He told them to ignore people who were saying that Jesus was taking too long to return. Instead, he pointed out that God is not slow but wants everyone to be saved.

How should the title of this book be translated?

Translators may choose to call this book by its traditional title, "2 Peter" or "Second Peter." Or they may choose a clearer title, such as "The Second Letter from Peter," or "The Second Letter Peter wrote." (See: How to Translate Names)

Who wrote the Book of 2 Peter?

The letter of 2 Peter states that it was written by the Apostle Peter. Peter probably wrote the letter near the end of his life. He was probably in prison in Rome and facing imminent death. Peter calls this letter his second letter, so we can date it after 1 Peter. He addressed the letter to all Christians.

Part 2: Important Religious and Cultural Concepts

Why were false teachers a problem in the early church?

False teachers were a problem for the early church for two reasons. First, the New Testament was not yet complete, and the Christians probably had poor access to what New Testament writings did exist. Because of this, it was easy for false teachers to lead believers astray. Second, there was very little knowledge of true Christian teachings in the world. This lack of knowledge certainly an advantage for false teachers.

What does it mean that God inspired Scripture?

The doctrine of Scripture is a very important one. 2 Peter helps readers to understand that while each writer of Scripture has his own distinct way of writing, God is the true author of Scripture.

Part 3: Important Translation Issues

Singular and plural "you"

In this book, the word "I" refers to Peter. Also, the word "you" is always plural and refers to the believers who may read this letter. (See: Exclusive "We" and Forms of You)

What are the major issues in the text of the Book of 2 Peter?

The following are the most significant textual issues in the Book of 2 Peter:

- "to be kept in chains in deep darkness until the judgment." (2:4) The ULB, UDB, and many versions have this reading. Other versions have, ""to be kept in pits of lower darkness until the judgment." If other versions exist in the translators' region, they might consider following those versions' reading in this passage.
- "They enjoy their deceitful actions while they are feasting with you." (2:13) The ULB, UDB, and many versions have this reading. Other versions have, "They enjoy their actions while they are feast with you in love feasts."
- "Beor" (2:15). The ULB, UDB, and many other modern versions have this reading. Some other versions have the reading, "Bosor."
- "The elements will be burned with fire, and the earth and the deeds in it will be revealed." (3:10) The ULB, UDB, and many versions have this reading. Other versions have, "The elements will be burned with fire, and the earth and the deeds in it will be burned up." If other versions exist in the translators' region, they might consider following those versions' reading in this passage.

(See: Textual Variants)

List of translationAcademy Topics in 2 Peter:

* Abstract Nouns is found in: 01:01, 01:03, 01:08, 02:15, 02:20, 03:03, 03:05, 03:17

* Active or Passive is found in: 01:10, 01:16, 01:19, 02:01, 02:04, 02:17, 02:20, 03:01, 03:05, 03:10, 03:11, 03:14, 03:17

* Double Negatives is found in: 02:01

* Doublet is found in: 01:08, 01:10, 03:14

* Exclusive "We" is found in: 01:01, 01:16

* Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information is found in: 01:01, 01:05, 01:19, 02:17, 03:03, 03:14

* Hendiadys is found in: 01:03, 01:16

* Hyperbole is found in: 03:03

* Idiom is found in: 03:03

* Inclusive "We" is found in: 01:03, 01:16, 01:19

* Irony is found in: 02:12

* Metaphor is found in: 01:01, 01:08, 01:10, 01:12, 01:19, 02:01, 02:04, 02:10, 02:12, 02:15, 02:17, 02:20, 03:01, 03:14, 03:17

* Metonymy is found in: 01:16, 02:04, 02:10, 02:12, 02:15, 02:20

* Personification is found in: 02:01, 03:10, 03:11

* Rhetorical Question is found in: 03:11

* Simile is found in: 01:19, 02:17

* Synecdoche is found in: 02:07, 02:12

* How to Translate Names is found in: 02:04

* Proverbs is found in: 02:20

List of translationWords in 2 Peter:

* adultery, adulterous, adulterer, adulteress is found in: 02:12

* amen, truly is found in: 03:17

* angel, archangel is found in: 02:04, 02:10

* apostle, apostleship is found in: 01:01, 03:01

* arrogant is found in: 02:17

* ash, ashes, dust is found in: 02:04

* astray, go astray, led astray, stray is found in: 02:15, 03:17

* authority is found in: 02:10

* Balaam is found in: 02:15

* barren is found in: 01:08

* beloved is found in: 01:16, 03:01, 03:08, 03:14, 03:17

* blameless is found in: 03:14

* blasphemy, blaspheme, blasphemous is found in: 02:01, 02:10

* blemish is found in: 02:12

* bold, boldly, boldness is found in: 02:10

* brother is found in: 01:10, 03:14

* call, calling, called, call out is found in: 01:03, 01:10

* children, child is found in: 02:12

* clean, cleanse is found in: 01:08

* command, to command, commandment is found in: 02:20, 03:01, 03:05

* condemn, condemnation is found in: 02:01, 02:04

* corrupt, corruption is found in: 01:03, 02:10, 02:17

* create, creation, Creator is found in: 03:03

* curse, cursed is found in: 02:12

* darkness is found in: 02:04, 02:17

* day of the Lord, day of Yahweh is found in: 03:10, 03:11

* deceive, deceit, deception, deceptive is found in: 02:01, 02:12, 03:17

* defile, be defiled is found in: 02:20

* divine is found in: 01:03

* donkey, mule is found in: 02:15

* earth, earthly is found in: 03:05, 03:10

* chosen one, choose, chosen people, Chosen One, the elect is found in: 01:10

* endure, endurance is found in: 01:05

* envy, covet is found in: 02:12

* everlasting, eternal, eternity is found in: 01:10

* evil, wicked, wickedness is found in: 01:03

* faith is found in: 01:01, 01:05

* faithful, faithfulness is found in: 03:17

* false prophet is found in: 02:01

* ancestor, father, forefather is found in: 03:03

* feast is found in: 02:12

* fire is found in: 03:05, 03:10, 03:11

* flesh is found in: 02:10, 02:17

* flood is found in: 02:04, 03:05

* forever is found in: 03:17

* fountain, spring is found in: 02:17

* free, freedom, liberty is found in: 02:17

* fruit, fruitful is found in: 01:08

* glory, glorious is found in: 01:03, 01:16, 02:10, 03:17

* God is found in: 01:01, 01:03, 01:19, 02:04

* godly, godliness is found in: 01:03, 01:05, 02:07, 03:11

* God the Father, heavenly Father, Father is found in: 01:16

* Gomorrah is found in: 02:04

* grace, gracious is found in: 01:01, 03:17

* heart is found in: 01:19, 02:12

* heaven, sky, heavens, heavenly is found in: 01:16, 03:05, 03:10, 03:11

* holy, holiness is found in: 01:16, 02:20, 03:01, 03:11

* Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord is found in: 01:19

* honor, to honor is found in: 01:16

* Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus is found in: 01:01, 01:08, 01:10, 01:16, 02:20, 03:17

* judge, judgment is found in: 02:04, 02:10

* judgment day is found in: 02:07, 03:05

* kingdom is found in: 01:10

* know, knowledge, make known is found in: 01:01, 01:03, 01:05, 02:20, 03:17

* lamp is found in: 01:19

* last day, last days, latter days is found in: 03:03

* lawless, lawlessness is found in: 02:07, 03:17

* letter, epistle is found in: 03:01, 03:14

* life, live, living, alive is found in: 01:03, 03:11

* lord, master, sir is found in: 02:01

* Lord is found in: 01:01, 01:08, 01:10, 01:16, 02:07, 02:10, 02:20, 03:01, 03:08, 03:14, 03:17

* Lot is found in: 02:07

* love is found in: 01:05, 02:15

* lust is found in: 02:17

* majesty is found in: 01:16

* mind is found in: 03:01

* mock, ridicule, scoff at is found in: 03:03

* Noah is found in: 02:04

* patient, patience is found in: 03:08, 03:14

* Paul, Saul is found in: 03:14

* peace, peaceful is found in: 01:01, 03:14

* people group, peoples, the people, a people is found in: 02:01

* perish, perishing, perishable is found in: 03:08

* Peter, Simon Peter, Cephas is found in: 01:01

* pig, swine, pork is found in: 02:20

* power, powers is found in: 01:03, 01:16

* precious is found in: 01:01, 01:03

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* promise is found in: 01:03, 02:17, 03:03, 03:08, 03:11

* prophet, prophecy, prophesy, seer, prophetess is found in: 01:19, 02:15, 03:01

* proverb is found in: 02:20

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* rebuke is found in: 02:15

* receive is found in: 02:15

* repent, repentance is found in: 03:08

* reveal, revelation is found in: 03:10

* reward is found in: 02:12

* righteous, righteousness is found in: 01:01, 02:04, 02:07, 02:20, 03:11

* salvation is found in: 03:14

* Savior is found in: 01:01, 01:10, 02:20, 03:01, 03:17

* self-control is found in: 01:05

* servant, slave, slavery is found in: 01:01, 02:17

* sin, sinful, sinner, sinning is found in: 01:08, 02:04, 02:12

* sleep, asleep, fall asleep is found in: 03:03

* Sodom is found in: 02:04

* Son of God, the Son, Son is found in: 01:16

* soul is found in: 02:07, 02:12

* strength, strengthen is found in: 02:10

* stumble is found in: 01:10

* teach, teaching, teacher, taught is found in: 02:01

* tent is found in: 01:12

* thief, thieves, robber is found in: 03:10

* torment is found in: 02:07

* transgress, transgression is found in: 02:15

* trial is found in: 02:07

* true, truth, come true is found in: 01:12, 02:01, 02:10, 02:20

* ungodly, godless, ungodliness, godlessness is found in: 02:04, 03:05

* unrighteous, unrighteousness is found in: 02:07, 02:15

* vain, vanity is found in: 02:17

* voice is found in: 02:15

* water, waters is found in: 03:05

* wise, wisdom is found in: 03:14

* witness, eyewitness is found in: 01:16

* word is found in: 01:19

* word of God, word of Yahweh, word of the Lord, scripture is found in: 03:14

* works, deeds, work, acts is found in: 03:10

* world, worldly is found in: 01:03, 02:04, 02:20, 03:05

* wrong, mistreat, hurt is found in: 02:12

2 Peter 1 General Notes

Special concepts in this chapter

Knowing God

Christian spiritual growth is often described as knowing God more or knowing God better. This is because a growing Christian understands the things of God better as they grow. (See: spirit, spiritual)

Forgetting what God has done

Peter believes Christians, who are not leading godly lives, have forgotten the cost of their salvation. He reasons: if they remembered their former life and what Jesus has done, they would be sufficiently motivated to live godly lives. (See: godly, godliness and save, safe)

Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

Divine revelation

Peter describes Christianity as a religion, which has been revealed and proved by God and it is therefore implied that it is not a creation of man, like all other religions (except Judaism). (See: reveal, revelation and Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information)

Links:

- **2 Peter 01:01 Notes**
- **Introduction to 2 Peter**

2 Peter 1:1-2

UDB:

1 I, Simon Peter, am writing this letter to you. I serve Jesus Christ, and I am an apostle that he appointed. I am sending this letter to you whom God has caused to believe in Christ just like he caused us apostles to believe in Christ. You and we have the same honor of believing in Jesus Christ. He is God, he is completely just, he is the one whom we worship, and he is our Savior. **2** I pray that God will continue to act very kindly toward you and give you a deep peace, because you truly know God and Jesus, who is our Lord.

ULB:

1 **1** Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received the same precious faith as we have received, faith in the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. **2** May grace and peace increase in measure in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

translationWords:

- Peter, Simon Peter, Cephas
- servant, slave, slavery
- apostle, apostleship
- Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus
- precious
- faith
- righteous, righteousness
- God
- Savior
- grace, gracious
- peace, peaceful
- know, knowledge, make known
- Lord

translationNotes:

- **General Information:** - Peter identifies himself as the writer and identifies and greets the believers he is writing to.

- **slave and apostle of Jesus Christ** - Peter speaks of being Jesus Christ's servant. He also was given the position and authority of being Christ's apostle.
- **to those who have received the same precious faith** - Peter speaks of the truth about Jesus Christ as something that believers could actually receive, as if it were an object. (See: Abstract Nouns)

- **to those who have received** - "to you who have received." Peter addresses all believers who may read this letter.
- **we have received** - Here the word "we" refers to Peter and the other apostles, but not to those to whom he is writing. AT: "we apostles have received" (See: Exclusive "We")
- **May grace and peace increase in measure** - God is the one who will give grace and peace to believers. AT: "May God increase your grace and your peace" (See: Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information)
- **May grace and peace increase** - Peter speaks of peace as if it were an object that could increase in size or numbers. (See: Metaphor)
- **in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord** - You can translate "knowledge" using a verbal phrase. AT: "through your knowing God and Jesus our Lord" (See: Abstract Nouns)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 01 General Notes
- 2 Peter 01 Translation Questions

2 Peter 1:3-4

UDB:

3 God has given us everything that we need in order that we might live forever and honor him. He does this by his power as God, and he does this because we know him. He has also given it to us as a result of our knowing him. He is the one who chose us to be his people because he is powerful and good. **4** Because he is this way, he has promised us that he will do very great and priceless things for us. He has also said to you that as you believe in what he has promised, you will be able to act in a right way, just like God acts in a right way, and that you will no longer be on the way to perish because of desiring to do evil things, as the unbelievers are.

ULB:

3 All the things concerning divine power for life and godliness have been given to us through the knowledge of God, who called us through his own glory and virtue. **4** Through these, he gave us precious and great promises, so that you might be sharers in the divine nature, as you escape from the corruption that is in the world because of wicked desires.

translationWords:

- divine
- power, powers
- life, live, living, alive
- godly, godliness
- know, knowledge, make known
- God
- call, calling, called, call out
- glory, glorious
- precious
- promise
- divine
- corrupt, corruption
- world, worldly
- evil, wicked, wickedness

translationNotes:

- **General Information:** - Peter begins to teach the believers about living godly lives.

- **for life and godliness** - Here "godliness" describes the word "life." AT: "for a godly life" (See: Hendiadys)
- **who called us** - Here the word "us" refers to Peter and his audience. (See: Inclusive "We")

- **through his own glory and virtue** - "through his own glory and moral excellence"
- **Through these** - Here "these" refers to "his own glory and virtue."
- **you might be sharers** - "you might share"
- **the divine nature** - what God is like
- **the corruption that is in the world** - The reasons that the world is doomed to be destroyed are spoken of as if they were objects in the world. (See: Abstract Nouns)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 01 General Notes
- 2 Peter 01 Translation Questions

2 Peter 1:5-7

UDB:

5 Because God has done all that, do your best that you not only believe in Christ, but that you are also living good lives. And make sure that you are not only living good lives, but that you also learn more and more about God. **6** In addition, do your best, not only to know more and more about God, but also that you control yourself in what you do and say. And make sure that you not only control what you do and say, but also that you are faithful to him. And make sure that you are not only faithful to him, but that you also honor him. **7** And make sure that you do not only honor him, but that you also have a concern for your fellow believers, as brothers and sisters ought to have for each other. And make sure that you not only have a concern for your fellow believers, but that you also love others.

ULB:

5 For this reason, do your best to add virtue through your faith, and through your virtue, knowledge. **6** Through your knowledge, add self-control, and through your self-control, add endurance, and through your endurance, add godliness. **7** Through your godliness, add brotherly affection, and through your brotherly affection, add love.

translationWords:

- faith
- know, knowledge, make known
- self-control
- endure, endurance
- godly, godliness
- love

translationNotes:

- **For this reason** - This refers to what Peter has just said in the previous verses. AT: "Because of what God has done" (See: Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information)
- **virtue** - "moral excellence"
- **brotherly affection** - This refers to love for a friend or family member and likely means that they are to love their spiritual family.

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 01 General Notes

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- 2 Peter 01 Translation Questions

2 Peter 1:8-9

UDB:

⁸ If you do all these things, and if you do them more and more, that shows that knowing our Lord Jesus Christ produces very great results in your lives. **⁹** But if these things are not true about people, it means they are not aware that these things are important, just like a blind person is not aware of what is around him. They think only about earthly matters, just like a shortsighted person sees clearly only things that are near. It seems that they have forgotten that God has forgiven them for their former sinful lives.

ULB:

⁸ If these things are in you and grow in you, you will not be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **⁹** But whoever lacks these things sees only what is near; he is blind. He has forgotten the cleansing from his old sins.

translationWords:

- barren
- fruit, fruitful
- Lord
- Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus
- clean, cleanse
- sin, sinful, sinner, sinning

translationNotes:

- **these things** - This refers to faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, brotherly affection, and love, which Peter mentioned in the previous verses.
- **you will not be barren or unfruitful** - Peter speaks of a person who does not possess these qualities as if he is a field that will not produce a crop. This can be stated in positive terms. AT: "you will produce and be fruitful" or "you will be effective" (See: Metaphor and Double Negatives)
- **barren or unfruitful** - These words mean basically the same thing and emphasize that this person will not be productive or experience any benefits from knowing Jesus. AT: "unproductive" (See: Doublet)
- **in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ** - You can translate "knowledge" using a verbal phrase. AT: "through your knowing God and Jesus our Lord." See how you translated a similar phrase in 1:2. (See: Abstract Nouns)
- **whoever lacks these things** - any person who does not have these things

- **sees only what is near; he is blind** - Peter speaks of a person who does not possess these qualities as if he were a nearsighted or blind person because he does not understand their value. AT: "is like a shortsighted person who cannot see their importance" (See: Metaphor)
- **the cleansing from his old sins** - You can use a verb to translate this. AT: "that God has cleansed him from his old sins" (See: Abstract Nouns)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 01 General Notes
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2 Peter 1:10-11

UDB:

10 Instead of acting like those people, try to behave so as to make everyone know that God has chosen you to be his people. If you do that, you will certainly never become separated from God, **11** and God will very wholeheartedly welcome you into the place where our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will rule his people forever.

ULB:

10 Therefore, brothers, do your best to make your calling and election sure for yourselves. If you do these things, you will not stumble. **11** In this way an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly granted to you.

translationWords:

- brother
- call, calling, called, call out
- chosen one, choose, chosen people, Chosen One, the elect
- stumble
- everlasting, eternal, eternity
- kingdom
- Lord
- Savior
- Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus

translationNotes:

- **make your calling and election sure for yourselves** - The words "calling" and "election" share similar meanings and refer to God's choosing them to belong to him. AT: "make sure that God has really chosen you to belong to him" (See: Doublet)
- **you will not stumble** - Here the word "stumble" refers either to 1) committing sin or 2) becoming unfaithful to Christ. AT: "you will not practice sinful behavior" or "you will not become unfaithful to Christ" (See: Metaphor)
- **an entrance ... will be richly granted to you** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "God will richly grant to you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (See: Active or Passive)
- **an entrance** - the opportunity to enter
- **richly granted** - given very generously

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- Introduction to 2 Peter
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2 Peter 1:12-15

UDB:

12 I intend to keep on reminding you very frequently about these matters, even though you already know them and are firmly convinced that they are true. **13** I consider it right that I should help you to continually think about these matters by reminding you about them as long as I am alive, **14** because I know that I shall die soon, just like our Lord Jesus Christ clearly has revealed to me. **15** Moreover, I will make every effort by writing these things down to enable you to remember them at all times after I have died.

ULB:

12 Therefore I will always be ready to remind you of these things, although you know them, and although you are strong in the truth now. **13** I think it is right for me to stir you up with a reminder about these things, as long as I am in this tent. **14** For I know that soon I will remove my tent, as our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me. **15** I will do my best for you to always remember these things after my departure.

translationWords:

- true, truth, come true
- tent

translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - Peter tells the believers about his obligation to continue reminding them and teaching them.

- **to remind you of these things** - Here the words "these things" refers to everything that Peter has said in the previous verses.
- **you are strong in the truth** - "you strongly believe the truth of these things"
- **to stir you up with a reminder about these things** - Here the word "stir" means to awaken someone from sleep. Peter speaks of causing his readers to think about these things as if he were waking them from sleep. AT: "to cause you to think about these things with a reminder" (See: Metaphor)
- **as long as I am in this tent ... I will remove my tent** - Peter speaks of his body as if it were a tent that he will put away. These phrases refer to his death. AT: "as long as I am alive ... I will die" (See: Metaphor and Euphemism)
- **for you to always remember** - "to enable you to always remember"
- **after my departure** - Peter speaks of his death as if he were leaving one place to go to another. AT: "after my death" (See: Metaphor and Euphemism)

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2 Peter 1:16-18

UDB:

16 We apostles told you that our Lord Jesus Christ is powerful and that he is coming back some day. We were not basing what we told you on stories that we had cleverly invented. Instead, we told you what we ourselves saw with our own eyes, that the Lord Jesus is supremely great. **17** God, our Father, greatly honored him when God's great light surrounded him, and he said, "This is my Son, whom I love very much; I am very pleased with him." **18** We ourselves heard God say that from heaven, when we were with Christ on that holy mountain.

ULB:

16 For we did not follow cleverly invented myths when we told you about the power and the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead, we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **17** For he received from God the Father honor and glory when a voice was brought to him by the majestic Glory saying, "This is my Son, the beloved One, with whom I am well pleased." **18** We heard this voice that came out of heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

translationWords:

- power, powers
- Lord
- Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus
- witness, eyewitness
- majesty
- God the Father, heavenly Father, Father
- honor, to honor
- glory, glorious
- Son of God, the Son, Son
- beloved
- heaven, sky, heavens, heavenly
- holy, holiness

translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - Peter continues to explain his teachings to the believers and explains why they are trustworthy.

- **For we did not follow cleverly invented myths** - Here the word "we" refers to Peter and the other apostles, but not to his readers. AT: "For we apostles did not follow cleverly made-up stories" (See: Exclusive "We")

- **the power and the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ** - Here the word "appearance" refers to Jesus' second coming. Possible meanings are 1) "the power of our Lord Jesus Christ and his coming" or 2) "the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (See: Hendiadys)
- **our Lord Jesus Christ** - Here the word "our" refers to all believers. (See: Inclusive "We")
- **when a voice was brought to him by the majestic Glory** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "when he heard a voice come from the majestic Glory" or "when the majestic Glory spoke to him" (See: Active or Passive)
- **a voice ... saying** - the sound of the words
- **the majestic Glory** - Peter refers to God in terms of his glory. This is a euphemism that avoids using God's name, out of reverence for him. AT: "God, the supreme Glory" (See: Metonymy and Euphemism)
- **We heard this voice that came out of heaven** - Peter is referring to himself and to the disciples James and John, who heard the voice of God.
- **we were with him** - "we were with Jesus"

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2 Peter 1:19-21

UDB:

19 We are even more sure that what the prophets wrote about Christ long ago is completely reliable. Pay attention to what they wrote, because it is like a lamp that is shining in a dark place that helps people see where they are going. That light will shine until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. **20** It is important that you understand that no prophet could interpret by his own imagination. **21** No prophecies come from the decision of a human being. Those who spoke messages from God did so when the Holy Spirit helped them do it. Therefore the Spirit must also help us understand what they mean.

ULB:

19 We have this prophetic word made more sure. You do well to pay attention to it. It is like a lamp shining in a dark place until the morning comes and the morning star rises in your hearts. **20** Know this first, that no prophecy is about one's own interpretation. **21** For no prophecy ever came by the will of man. Instead, men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

translationWords:

- prophet, prophecy, prophesy, seer, prophetess
- word
- lamp
- heart
- Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord
- God

translationNotes:

- **General Information:** - Peter begins to warn the believers about false teachers.

- **We have this prophetic word made more sure** - The things that Peter and the other apostles saw, which he described in the previous verses, confirm what the prophets spoke. This can be stated in active form. AT: "The things that we saw make this prophetic word more sure" (See: Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information and Active or Passive)
- **We have** - Here the word "We" refers to all believers, including Peter and his readers. (See: Inclusive "We")
- **this prophetic word** - This refers to the Old Testament. AT: "the scriptures, which the prophets spoke" (See: Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information)
- **You do well to pay attention to it** - Peter instructs the believers to pay close attention to the prophetic message.

- **It is like a lamp shining in a dark place until the morning comes** - Peter compares the prophetic word to a lamp that gives light in the dark until light comes in the morning. The coming of morning is a reference to Christ's coming. (See: Simile)
- **the morning star rises in your hearts** - Peter speaks of Christ as the "morning star," which indicates that daybreak and the end of darkness is near. Christ will bring light into the hearts of believers, ending all doubt and bringing full understanding of who he is. (See: Metaphor)
- **the morning star** - The "morning star" refers to the planet Venus, which rises just before the sun and indicates that daybreak is near.
- **Know this first** - "Know this as the most important thing"
- **no prophecy is about one's own interpretation** - This passage may be understood in various ways: 1) the prophets did not make their prophecies on their own (UDB); 2) people must rely on the Holy Spirit to understood the prophecies; 3) people must interpret the prophecies with the help of the entire Christian community of believers.
- **men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God** - The Holy Spirit directed men to speak what God wanted them to speak. This can be stated in active form. AT: "men spoke from God as the Holy Spirit carried them along" (See: Active or Passive)
- **men carried along by the Holy Spirit** - Peter speaks of the Holy Spirit helping the prophets to write what God wanted them to write as if the Holy Spirit was carrying them from one place to another. (See: Metaphor)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 01 General Notes
- 2 Peter 01 Translation Questions

2 Peter 2 General Notes

Special concepts in this chapter

"It has become for them worse than at the first."

From the context, "them" probably refers to false teachers. These people were not Christians but came to hear the gospel message and understood it enough to further their own selfish desires. It is unlikely this passage teaches that Christians who begin to live sinful lives will lose their salvation because of their actions. This is because all Christian remain sinful after they are saved. The context favors this passage as referencing unsaved false teachers. (See: sin, sinful, sinner, sinning and save, safe)

Other possible translation difficulties in this chapter

Flesh

This is a complex issue and it is possible that "flesh" is a metaphor for a person's sinful nature. It is not the physical part of man that is sinful and it appears that while man remains alive ("in the flesh"), he will remain sinful regardless of his effort, but his new nature will be fighting against his old nature. (See: flesh)

Implicit knowledge

There are several analogies which will be difficult to understand if the Old Testament has not yet been translated. Further explanation may be necessary. (See: Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information)

Links:

- **2 Peter 02:01 Notes**

2 Peter 2:1-3

UDB:

1 Long ago, various people among the Israelites pretended to give true messages from God, and people will do the same with you. At first you will not know who they are, and they make some stop trusting in Christ; they will start thinking that the Lord is not important—although he is the one who redeemed them. But soon, God will make these false prophets perish. **2** And many believers will imitate how these false prophets live. In this way they will insult what is true about God. **3** They will tell you lies in such a way that they will make money off you. God will not wait very long before he punishes them; they will soon perish.

ULB:

2 **1** False prophets came to the people, and false teachers will also come to you. They will secretly bring with them destructive heresies, and they will deny the master who bought them. They are bringing quick destruction upon themselves. **2** Many will follow their sensuality, and through them the way of truth will be blasphemed. **3** With greediness they will make a profit off of you with deceptive words. Their condemnation does not delay for long; their destruction does not sleep.

translationWords:

- false prophet
- people group, peoples, the people, a people
- teach, teaching, teacher, taught
- lord, master, sir
- true, truth, come true
- blasphemy, blaspheme, blasphemous
- profit, profitable
- deceive, deceit, deception, deceptive
- condemn, condemnation

translationNotes:

- **General Information:** - Peter begins to warn the believers about false teachers.

- **False prophets came to the people, and false teachers will also come to you** - Just as false prophets came deceiving Israel with their words, so will false teachers come teaching lies about Christ.
- **destructive heresies** - The word "heresies" refers to opinions that are contrary to the teaching of Christ and the apostles. These heresies destroy the faith of those who believe them.

- **the master who bought them** - The word "master" here refers to a person who owns slaves. Peter speaks of Jesus as the owner of people whom he has bought, the price being his death. (See: Metaphor and Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information)
- **sensuality** - "immoral sexual behavior"
- **the way of truth will be blasphemed** - The phrase "way of truth" refers to the Christian faith as the true path to God. This can be stated in active form. AT: "unbelievers will blaspheme the way of truth" (See: Active or Passive)
- **make a profit off of you with deceptive words** - "convince you to give them money by telling you lies"
- **Their condemnation does not delay for long; their destruction does not sleep** - Peter speaks of "condemnation" and "destruction" as if they are persons who act. The two phrases mean basically the same thing and emphasize how soon the false teachers will be condemned. (See: Personification and Parallelism)
- **Their condemnation does not delay for long; their destruction does not sleep** - You can translate these phrases with verbs in positive terms. AT: "God will soon condemn them; he is ready to destroy them" (See: Double Negatives and Abstract Nouns)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 02 General Notes
- 2 Peter 02 Translation Questions

2 Peter 2:4-6

UDB:

4 God destroyed the angels who sinned. He threw them into the worst place in hell and imprisoned them there in darkness in order to keep them there until he judges and punishes them. **5** He also destroyed the people who lived in the world long ago. He saved only eight of them, including Noah, who was a righteous preacher. He did this when he destroyed by a flood all the ungodly people who were living then. **6** He also condemned Sodom and Gomorrah cities and then burned them completely to ashes. This is a warning to those who afterwards would live so as to dishonor God.

ULB:

4 For God did not spare the angels who sinned. Instead he handed them down to Tartarus to be kept in chains of lower darkness until the judgment.[1]Some other versions read, *to be kept in pits of lower darkness until the judgment.* **5** Also, he did not spare the ancient world. Instead, he preserved Noah, who was a herald of righteousness, along with seven others, when he brought a flood on the world of the ungodly. **6** God also reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes and condemned them to destruction, as an example of what is to happen to the ungodly.

translationWords:

- God
- angel, archangel
- sin, sinful, sinner, sinning
- darkness
- judge, judgment
- world, worldly
- Noah
- righteous, righteousness
- flood
- ungodly, godless, ungodliness, godlessness
- Sodom
- Gomorrah
- ash, ashes, dust
- condemn, condemnation

translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - Peter gives examples of people who acted against God and whom God punished because of what they did.

- **did not spare** - "did not refrain from punishing" or "punished"

- **he handed them down to Tartarus** - The word "Tartarus" is a term from Greek religion that refers to the place where evil spirits and wicked men who have died are punished. AT: "he cast them into hell" (See: How to Translate Names)
- **to be kept in chains of lower darkness** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "where he will keep them in chains of lower darkness" (See: Active or Passive)
- **in chains of lower darkness** - Possible meanings are 1) "in chains in a very dark place" or 2) "in very deep darkness that imprisons them like chains." (See: Metaphor)
- **until the judgment** - This refers to the day of judgment when God will judge every person.
- **he did not spare the ancient world** - Here the word "world" refers to the people who lived in it. AT: "he did not spare the people who lived in the ancient world" (See: Metonymy)
- **he preserved Noah ... along with seven others** - God did not destroy Noah and seven other people when he destroyed the rest of the people who lived in the ancient world.
- **reduced the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes** - "burned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire until only ashes remained"
- **condemned them to destruction** - Here the word "them" refers to Sodom and Gomorrah and the people who lived in them.
- **as an example of what is to happen to the ungodly** - Sodom and Gomorrah serve as an example and a warning of what will happen to others who disobey God.

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 02 General Notes
- 2 Peter 02 Translation Questions

2 Peter 2:7-9

UDB:

⁷ But he rescued Abraham's nephew, Lot, who was a righteous man. Lot was greatly distressed because the people in Sodom were doing very immoral deeds. **⁸** That righteous man was in agony because every day he saw and heard those wicked people do things against God's law. **⁹** And since the Lord God rescued Lot, you can be sure that he knows how to rescue people who honor him, and how to keep those who do not honor him ready for the time when he will punish them.

ULB:

⁷ But as for the righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the behavior of lawless men in sensuality, God rescued him. **⁸** For that righteous man, who was living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul because of what he saw and heard. **⁹** The Lord knows how to rescue godly men out of trials, and how to hold unrighteous men for punishment at the day of judgment.

translationWords:

- righteous, righteousness
- Lot
- lawless, lawlessness
- torment
- soul
- Lord
- godly, godliness
- trial
- unrighteous, unrighteousness
- punish, punishment
- judgment day

translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - Peter gives an example of Lot, whom God rescued out from among men who deserved punishment.

- **the behavior of lawless men** - "the immoral behavior of men who broke God's law"
- **that righteous man** - This refers to Lot.
- **was tormented in his righteous soul** - Here the word "soul" refers to Lot's thoughts and emotions. The immoral behavior of the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah disturbed him emotionally. AT: "was greatly disturbed" (See: Synecdoche)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 02 General Notes
- 2 Peter 02 Translation Questions

2 Peter 2:10-11

UDB:

10 He will punish especially severely those who do what they themselves want to do, things that make them displeasing to God. They boldly do whatever they wish to do; they even insult God's powerful angels. **11** But God's angels, even though they are much more powerful than those people, do not insult anyone in front of God, not even them!

ULB:

10 This is especially true for those who continue in the corrupt desires of the flesh and despise authority. They are bold and self-willed. They are not afraid to blaspheme the glorious ones. **11** Angels have greater strength and power, but they do not bring insulting judgments against them to the Lord.

translationWords:

- true, truth, come true
- corrupt, corruption
- flesh
- authority
- bold, boldly, boldness
- blasphemy, blaspheme, blasphemous
- glory, glorious
- angel, archangel
- strength, strengthen
- judge, judgment
- Lord

translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - Peter begins describing the characteristics of unrighteous men.

- **This is especially true** - The word "this" refers to God keeping unrighteous men in prison until judgment day in 2:09.
- **those who continue in the corrupt desires of the flesh** - Here the phrase "desires of the flesh" refers to the desires of the sinful nature. AT: "those who continue to indulge their corrupt, sinful desires"
- **despise authority** - "refuse to submit to God's authority." Here the word "authority" probably refers to God's authority.
- **authority** - Here "authority" stands for God, who has the right to give commands and to punish disobedience. (See: Metonymy)

- **self-willed** - "do whatever they want to do"
- **the glorious ones** - This phrase refers to spiritual beings, such as angels or demons.
- **greater strength and power** - Possible meanings for those who are being referred to are 1) the glorious ones or 2) the false teachers.
- **they do not bring insulting judgments against them** - The word "they" refers to angels. Possible meanings for the word "them" are 1) the glorious ones or 2) the false teachers.
- **bring insulting judgments against them** - The idea that angels could accuse these wicked people is spoken of as if they could attack them using accusations as weapons. (See: Metaphor)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 02 General Notes
- 2 Peter 02 Translation Questions

2 Peter 2:12-14

UDB:

[12] Those people who teach false things—who are like animals that cannot think like us—they say bad things about God, whom they do not even know. So he will destroy them like we hunt down and destroy wild animals that even nature has no use for. [13] The wrong things they do harm them themselves: they party and get drunk by day and night. They are like stains and spots on clothing that once was clean. [14] They want to sleep with every woman whom they see. They can never sin enough. They persuade people who are not very faithful to God to join with them. As athletes train for sports, these people train themselves to be greedy. But God has cursed them!

ULB:

[12] But these mindless animals are naturally made for capture and destruction. They do not know what they insult. They will be destroyed. [13] They will receive the reward of their wrongdoing. They think that luxury during the day is a pleasure. They are stains and blemishes. They enjoy their deceitful actions while they are feasting with you.[1]Other versions read, *They enjoy their actions while they are feasting with you in love feasts.* [14] They have eyes full of adulterous women; they are never satisfied with sin. They entice unstable souls into wrongdoing, and they have their hearts trained in covetousness. They are children of a curse!

translationWords:

- reward
- wrong, mistreat, hurt
- blemish
- deceive, deceit, deception, deceptive
- feast
- adultery, adulterous, adulterer, adulteress
- sin, sinful, sinner, sinning
- soul
- heart
- envy, covet
- children, child
- curse, cursed

translationNotes:

- **these mindless animals are naturally made** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "these mindless animals are naturally born" (See Active or Passive)

- **these mindless animals** - Just as animals cannot reason, these men cannot be reasoned with. AT: "these false teachers who are like mindless animals" (See: Metaphor)
- **They do not know what they insult** - They speak evil of what they do not know or understand.
- **They will be destroyed** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "God will destroy them" (See Active or Passive)
- **They will receive the reward of their wrongdoing** - Peter speaks of the punishment that the false teachers will receive as if it were a reward. AT: "They will receive what they deserve for their wrongdoing" (See: Irony)
- **luxury during the day** - Here the word "luxury" refers to immoral activity that includes gluttony, drunkenness, and sexual activity. Doing these things during the day indicates that these people are not ashamed of this behavior.
- **They are stains and blemishes** - The words "stains" and "blemishes" share similar meanings. Peter speaks of the false teachers as if they are stains on a garment that causes shame for those who wear it. AT: "They are like stains and blemishes on clothes, which causes disgrace" (See: Metaphor and Doublet)
- **They have eyes full of adulterous women** - To have their "eyes full" means that they are obsessed with what they see. Possible meanings are 1) "They think of every woman whom they see as adulterous and want to sleep with her" or 2) "They are always looking for an adulterous woman to sleep with." (See: Metonymy)
- **they are never satisfied with sin** - Although they sin in order to satisfy their lusts, the sin that they commit never satisfies.
- **They entice unstable souls** - Here the word "souls" refers to persons. AT: "They entice unstable people" (See: Synecdoche)
- **hearts trained in covetousness** - Here the word "hearts" refers to the thoughts and emotions of the person. Because of their habitual actions, they have trained themselves to think and act out of covetousness. (See: Metonymy)
- **children of a curse** - The word "children" refers to those who have been cursed. AT: "they are people who are under God's curse" (See: Metaphor)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 02 General Notes
- 2 Peter 02 Translation Questions

2 Peter 2:15-16

UDB:

[15] They refuse to live like God wants them to. They have imitated what the prophet Balaam, the son of Beor, did long ago. He thought he would act in a wicked way and gain a reward for it. [16] But God rebuked him for sinning. And even though donkeys do not speak, God used Balaam's own donkey to speak to him with a human voice and stop his insane action.

ULB:

[15] They have abandoned the right way. They went astray, and they have followed the way of Balaam son of Beor, who loved to receive payment for unrighteousness.[1]Some other versions read, *Balaam, son of Bosor* [16] But he obtained a rebuke for his own transgression. A mute donkey speaking in a human voice stopped the prophet's insanity.

translationWords:

- astray, go astray, led astray, stray
- Balaam
- love
- receive
- unrighteous, unrighteousness
- rebuke
- transgress, transgression
- donkey, mule
- voice
- prophet, prophecy, prophesy, seer, prophetess

translationNotes:

- **They have abandoned ... went astray ... have followed** - "False teachers have abandoned ... went astray ... have followed." False teachers have refused to be obedient to God by rejecting what is right.
- **the right way** - Right behavior that honors God is spoken of as if it were a path to follow. (See: Metaphor)
- **he obtained a rebuke** - You can specify it was God who rebuked Balaam. AT: "God rebuked him" (UDB) (See: Abstract Nouns)
- **A mute donkey speaking in a human voice** - A donkey, which is naturally unable to speak, spoke with a voice like a human.
- **stopped the prophet's insanity** - God used a donkey to stop the prophet's foolish action. (See: Metonymy)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 02 General Notes
- 2 Peter 02 Translation Questions

2 Peter 2:17-19

UDB:

17 These people who teach falsely are like springs that give no water; they are like clouds that quickly pass overhead before they can give rain. Therefore, God has reserved the darkness of hell for those teachers. **18** They boast about themselves, but what they say is worth nothing. They persuade people who have recently become believers and who have just now ceased to do wicked things. They persuade them to sin again by doing whatever sinful people like to do. **19** They tell them that they are free to do whatever they like. But they themselves are slaves who must obey whatever their evil minds tell them to do. Certainly a person is a slave to whatever controls him.

ULB:

17 These men are like springs without water. They are like clouds that a storm drives along. Thick darkness is reserved for them. **18** They speak with vain arrogance. They entice people through the lusts of the flesh. They entice people who try to escape from those who live in error. **19** They promise freedom to them, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For a man is a slave to whatever overcomes him.

translationWords:

- fountain, spring
- darkness
- vain, vanity
- arrogant
- lust
- flesh
- promise
- free, freedom, liberty
- servant, slave, slavery
- corrupt, corruption

translationNotes:

- **These men are like springs without water** - Springs flowing with water promise refreshment for thirsty people, but "springs without water" will leave the thirsty disappointed. In the same way, false teachers, although they promise many things, are unable to do what they promise. (See: Simile)
- **They are like clouds that a storm drives** - When people see storm clouds, they expect rain to fall. When the winds from the storm blow the clouds away before the rain can fall, the people are disappointed. In the same way, false teachers, although they promise many things, are unable to do what they promise. (See: Simile)

- **Thick darkness is reserved for them** - The word "them" refers to the false teachers. This can be stated in active form. AT: "God has reserved thick darkness for them" (See: Active or Passive)
- **They speak with vain arrogance** - They use impressive but meaningless words.
- **They entice people through the lusts of the flesh** - They appeal to the sinful nature to engage people in immoral and sinful actions.
- **people who try to escape ... promise freedom ... slaves of corruption** - Peter speaks of people who live sinfully as if they are slaves to sin who need to be released from their captivity. (See: Metaphor)
- **people who try to escape from those who live in error** - This phrase refers to people who recently became believers. The phrase "those who live in error" refers to unbelievers who still live in sin. AT: "people who try to live rightly, instead of living sinfully as they used to and as other people do" (See: Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information)
- **They promise freedom to them, but they themselves are slaves of corruption** - "The false teachers promise freedom to these people, but the false teachers themselves are slaves of corruption." The false teachers promise people that they can help them to stop sinning, but the false teachers themselves cannot stop sinning.
- **For a man is a slave to whatever overcomes him** - Peter speaks of a person as a slave when anything has control over that person, and that thing as the master of that person. AT: "For if something has control over a person, that person becomes like a slave to that thing" (See: Metaphor)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 02 General Notes
- 2 Peter 02 Translation Questions

2 Peter 2:20-22

UDB:

20 But suppose that you began to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that you stopped doing the things that kept God from accepting you. Then suppose that you began doing those same wicked things again, you would be even worse off now than you were at first. **21** It would have been better for them if they had never learned how to live in the right way. But God will punish them even more, since they have rejected what he instructed them to do, what we apostles passed on to them. **22** The way in which they are behaving again is just like the proverbs that people say: "They are like dogs that return to eat their own vomit;" and they are like "pigs that have washed themselves and then roll again in the mud."

ULB:

20 Whoever escapes the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and then returns to those defilements again, the last state has become worse for them than the first state. **21** It would have been better for them not to know the way of righteousness than to know it and turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them. **22** This proverb is true for them: "A dog returns to its own vomit. A washed pig returns to the mud."

translationWords:

- defile, be defiled
- world, worldly
- know, knowledge, make known
- Lord
- Savior
- Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus
- righteous, righteousness
- holy, holiness
- command, to command, commandment
- proverb
- true, truth, come true
- pig, swine, pork

translationNotes:

- **the defilements of the world** - The word "defilements" refers to sinful behavior that makes one morally impure. The "world" refers to human society. AT: "the defiling practices of sinful human society" (See: Metonymy)

- **through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** - You can translate "knowledge" using a verbal phrase. See how you translated similar phrases in 1:2 and 1:8. AT: "through knowing the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (See: Abstract Nouns)
- **the last state has become worse for them than the first state** - "their condition is worse than it was before"
- **the way of righteousness** - Peter speaks of life as a "way" or path. This phrase refers to living a life that is according to God's will. (See: Metaphor)
- **the holy commandment delivered to them** - This can be stated in active terms. AT: "the holy commandment that God delivered to them" (See: Active or Passive)
- **This proverb is true for them** - "This proverb applies to them" or "This proverb describes them"
- **A dog returns to its own vomit. A washed pig returns to the mud** - Peter uses two proverbs to illustrate how the false teachers, although they have known "the way of righteousness," have turned back to the things that make them morally and spiritually impure. (See: Proverbs)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 02 General Notes
- 2 Peter 02 Translation Questions

2 Peter 3 General Notes

Special concepts in this chapter

Fire

Fire is related to destruction and, because of this, it is associated with punishment.

Day of the Lord

The exact time of the coming day of the Lord will come as a surprise to the world. This is what the simile "like a thief in the night" means. Because of this, Christians are to be prepared for the coming of the Lord. (See: day of the Lord, day of Yahweh and Simile)

Links:

- **2 Peter 03:01 Notes**

2 Peter 3:1-2

UDB:

1 This letter that I am now writing to you whom I love, is the second letter that I have written to you. I have written both these letters to you in order that by reminding you about the things you already know, I may stimulate you to think sincerely about those things. **2** I want you to remember the words that were spoken by the holy prophets long ago, and also to remember what our Lord and Savior commanded, things that we, your apostles, told you about.

ULB:

3 ¹ Now, I am writing to you, beloved, this second letter as a reminder to stir up your sincere mind, **²** so that you will recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command of our Lord and Savior given through your apostles.

translationWords:

- beloved
- letter, epistle
- mind
- holy, holiness
- prophet, prophecy, prophesy, seer, prophetess
- command, to command, commandment
- Lord
- Savior
- apostle, apostleship

translationNotes:

- **General Information:** - Peter begins to talk about the last days.

- **to stir up your sincere mind** - Peter speaks of causing his readers to think about these things as if he were waking them from sleep. AT: "to cause you to think pure thoughts" (See: Metaphor)
- **the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "the words that the holy prophets spoke in the past" (See: Active or Passive)
- **the command of our Lord and Savior given through your apostles** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "the command of our Lord and Savior, which your apostles gave to you" (See: Active or Passive)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 03 General Notes
- 2 Peter 03 Translation Questions

2 Peter 3:3-4

UDB:

3 It is important for you to understand that in the time immediately before Christ comes back, people will ridicule you for saying that Christ will come back. Those people will do whatever evil deeds they wish to do. **4** They will say, "Although Christ promised that he would come back, he has not. Since the ancestors died, everything has remained the same. Things are as they always have been since God created the world!"

ULB:

3 Know this first, that mockers will come in the last days. They will mock and proceed according to their own desires. **4** They will say, "Where is the promise of his return? From when our fathers fell asleep, all things have stayed the same, since the beginning of creation."

translationWords:

- mock, ridicule, scoff at
- last day, last days, latter days
- promise
- ancestor, father, forefather
- sleep, asleep, fall asleep
- create, creation, Creator

translationNotes:

- **Know this first** - "Know this as the most important thing." See how you translated this in 1:20.
- **proceed according to their own desires** - Here the word "desires" refers to sinful desires that are opposed to God's will. AT: "living according to their own sinful desires" (See: Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information)
- **proceed** - act, behave
- **Where is the promise of his return?** - The mockers ask this rhetorical question to emphasize that they do not believe that Jesus will return. The word "promise" refers to the fulfillment of the promise that Jesus will return. AT: "The promise that Jesus would return is not true! He will not return!" (See Rhetorical Question and Metonymy)
- **our fathers fell asleep** - Here "fathers" refers to ancestors who lived long ago. "Fell asleep" is an idiom that means they died. (See: Idiom)
- **all things have stayed the same, since the beginning of creation** - The mockers argue that since nothing in the world has ever changed, it cannot be true that Jesus will return. (See: Hyperbole)

- **since the beginning of creation** - This can be translated as a verbal phrase. AT: "since God created the world" (UDB) (See: Abstract Nouns)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 03 General Notes
- 2 Peter 03 Translation Questions

2 Peter 3:5-7

UDB:

[5] They will say this because they deliberately overlook the fact that God, by commanding long ago that it should be so, caused the heavens to exist, and he caused the earth to come up out of water and to be separate from the water. [6] And God, by commanding that it should be so, later destroyed the world that existed at that time, by causing the earth to be flooded with water. [7] Furthermore, God, by commanding that it should be so, has set apart the heavens and the earth that exist now, and they are being kept until the time when he will judge ungodly people. And at that time he will destroy the heavens and the earth by burning them.

ULB:

[5] They willfully forget that the heavens and the earth came to exist out of water and through water, long ago, by God's command, [6] and that through these things, the world of that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. [7] But now the heavens and the earth are reserved for fire by that same command. They are reserved for the day of judgment and the destruction of the ungodly people.

translationWords:

- heaven, sky, heavens, heavenly
- earth, earthly
- water, waters
- command, to command, commandment
- world, worldly
- flood
- fire
- judgment day
- ungodly, godless, ungodliness, godlessness

translationNotes:

- **the heavens and the earth came to exist ... long ago, by God's command** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "God established the heavens and the earth ... long ago by his word" (See: Active or Passive)
- **came to exist out of water and through water** - This means that God caused the land to come up out of the water, gathering the bodies of water together to make the land appear.
- **through these things** - Here "these things" refers to God's word and water.
- **the world of that time was destroyed, being flooded with water** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "God flooded the world that existed at that time with water and destroyed it" (See: Active or Passive)

- **the heavens and the earth are reserved for fire by that same command** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "God, by that same word, has reserved the heavens and the earth for fire" (See: Active or Passive)
- **that same command** - Here "command" stands for God, who will give the command: AT "God, who will give a similar command"
- **are reserved for the day of judgment** - This can be stated in active form and can begin a new sentence. AT: "He is reserving them for the day of judgment" (See: Active or Passive)
- **for the day of judgment and the destruction of the ungodly people** - This can be stated with verbal phrases. AT: "for the day when he judges and destroys ungodly people" (See: Abstract Nouns)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 03 General Notes
- 2 Peter 03 Translation Questions

2 Peter 3:8-9

UDB:

[8] Dear friends, I want you to understand well that the Lord God is willing to wait a long time to judge the people in the world! How much time passes before the Lord God judges the people in the world does not matter to him! He considers that one day passes no more quickly than a thousand years, and he also considers that a thousand years pass as quickly as one day passes to us! [9] Therefore, you should not think that because Christ has not yet come back to judge people, the Lord God is delaying what he promised. Some people think that this is so, and they say that Christ never will come back. But you should understand that the reason why Christ has not yet come back to judge people is that God is being patient toward you, because he does not want anyone to be lost eternally. Instead, he wants everyone to turn away from their sinful behavior.

ULB:

[8] It should not escape your notice, beloved, that one day with the Lord is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. [9] The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider slowness to be. Instead, he is patient toward you. He does not desire for any of you to perish, but for everyone to make room for repentance.

translationWords:

- beloved
- Lord
- promise
- patient, patience
- perish, perishing, perishable
- repent, repentance

translationNotes:

- **It should not escape your notice** - "You should not fail to understand this" or "Do not ignore this"
- **that one day with the Lord is like a thousand years** - "that from the Lord's point of view, one day is like a thousand years"
- **The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises** - "The Lord does not move slowly to fulfill his promises"
- **as some consider slowness to be** - Some people think that the Lord is slow to fulfill his promises because their perspective of time is different than God's.

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 03 General Notes
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2 Peter 3:10

UDB:

10 Although God is being patient, at the time that he has appointed, the Lord Jesus Christ will certainly come back to judge people. He will come back unexpectedly, like a thief comes unexpectedly. At that time there will be a great roaring sound. The heavens will cease to exist. The elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it that anyone has ever done will be revealed to God for him to judge.

ULB:

10 However, the day of the Lord will come as a thief: The heavens will pass away with a loud noise. The elements will be burned with fire, and the earth and the deeds in it will be revealed.[1]Some versions read, *The elements will be burned with fire, and the earth and the deeds in it will be burned up.*

translationWords:

- day of the Lord, day of Yahweh
- thief, thieves, robber
- heaven, sky, heavens, heavenly
- fire
- earth, earthly
- works, deeds, work, acts
- reveal, revelation

translationNotes:

- **However** - Although the Lord is being patient and wants people to repent, he will indeed return and bring judgment.
- **the day of the Lord will come as a thief** - Peter speaks of the day when God will judge everyone as if it is a thief who comes unexpectedly and takes people by surprise. (See: Personification and Simile)
- **The heavens will pass away** - "The heavens will disappear"
- **The elements will be burned with fire** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "God will burn the elements with fire" (See: Active or Passive)
- **The elements** - Possible meanings are 1) the heavenly bodies, such as the sun, moon, and stars or 2) the things that make up heaven and earth, such as soil, air, fire, and water.
- **the earth and the deeds in it will be revealed** - God will see all the earth and all the deeds of everyone, and he will then judge everything. This can be stated in active terms. AT: "God will expose the earth and everything that people have done in it" (See: Active or Passive)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 03 General Notes
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2 Peter 3:11-13

UDB:

11 Because God will certainly destroy all these things like I just said, you certainly know how you should behave. You should behave in a way that honors God, **12** while you eagerly wait for Christ to return on the day that God has appointed, and you should try to make that day come soon. Because of what God will do on that day, the heavens will perish. The elements will melt and burn up. **13** Although all those events will happen, we rejoice because we are waiting for the new heavens and new earth that God has promised. The only people who will be in the new heavens and on this new earth will be people who are righteous.

ULB:

11 Since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people should you be? You should live holy and godly lives. **12** You should expect and hasten the coming of the day of God. On that day, the heavens will be destroyed by fire, and the elements will be melted in great heat. **13** But according to his promise, we are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth, where righteousness will dwell.

translationWords:

- holy, holiness
- godly, godliness
- life, live, living, alive
- day of the Lord, day of Yahweh
- heaven, sky, heavens, heavenly
- fire
- promise
- righteous, righteousness

translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - Peter begins to tell the believers how they should live as they wait for the day of the Lord.

- **Since all these things will be destroyed in this way** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "Since God will destroy all these things in this way" (See: Active or Passive)
- **what kind of people should you be?** - Peter uses this rhetorical question to emphasize what he will say next, that they "should live holy and godly lives." AT: "you know what kind of people you should be." (See: Rhetorical Question)

- **the heavens will be destroyed by fire, and the elements will be melted in great heat** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "God will destroy the heavens by fire, and he will melt the elements in great heat" (See: Active or Passive)
- **the elements** - Possible meanings are 1) the heavenly bodies, such as the sun, moon, and stars or 2) the things that make up heaven and earth, such as soil, air, fire, and water. See how you translated this in 3:10.
- **where righteousness will dwell** - Peter speaks of "righteousness" as if it were a person. This is a metonym for people who are righteous. AT: "where righteous people dwell" or "where people will live righteously" (See: Personification and Metonymy)

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 03 General Notes
- 2 Peter 03 Translation Questions

2 Peter 3:14-16

UDB:

¹⁴ Therefore, dear friends, because you are waiting for these things to happen, do all that you can to conduct your lives in a way that honors God, in order that Christ may see that you do not sin and that you are living peacefully with each other. ¹⁵ And think about this: Our Lord Jesus Christ is patient because he wants to save people. Our dear brother Paul also wrote wise words to you about these same matters, because God enabled him to understand these events. ¹⁶ In the letters that Paul wrote there are certain things that are difficult for people to understand. People who know nothing about God and who speak at random interpret these things wrongly, as they also interpret the other parts of the scriptures wrongly. The result is that they will lead God to punish them.

ULB:

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you expect these things, do your best to be found spotless and blameless before him, in peace. ¹⁵ Also, consider the patience of our Lord to be salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul wrote to you, according to the wisdom that was given to him. ¹⁶ Paul speaks of these things in all his letters, in which there are things that are difficult to understand. Ignorant and unstable men distort these things, as they also do the other scriptures, to their own destruction.

translationWords:

- beloved
- blameless
- peace, peaceful
- patient, patience
- Lord
- salvation
- brother
- Paul, Saul
- wise, wisdom
- letter, epistle
- word of God, word of Yahweh, word of the Lord, scripture

translationNotes:

- **do your best to be found spotless and blameless before him, in peace** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "do your best to live in a way so that God will find you spotless and blameless and at peace with him and each other" (See: Active or Passive)

- **spotless and blameless** - The words "spotless" and "blameless" mean basically the same thing and emphasize moral purity. AT: "completely pure" (See: Doublet)
- **spotless** - Here this stands for "faultless." (See: Metaphor)
- **consider the patience of our Lord to be salvation** - Because the Lord is patient, the day of judgment has not yet happened. This gives people an opportunity to repent and be saved, as he explained in 3:9. AT: "Also, think about the patience of our Lord as giving you an opportunity to repent and be saved" (See: Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information)
- **according to the wisdom that was given to him** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "according to the wisdom that God gave to him" (See: Active or Passive)
- **Paul speaks of these things in all his letters** - "Paul speaks of the patience of God leading to salvation in all his letters"
- **in which there are things that are difficult to understand** - There are things in Paul's letters that are difficult to understand.
- **Ignorant and unstable men distort these things** - Ignorant and unstable men misinterpret the things in Paul's letters that are difficult to understand.
- **Ignorant and unstable** - "Unlearned and unsteady." These men have not been taught how to properly interpret scripture and are not well established in the truth of the gospel.
- **to their own destruction** - "resulting in their own destruction"

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 03 General Notes
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2 Peter 3:17-18

UDB:

[17] Therefore, dear friends, since you already know about these false teachers, guard against them. Do not let these wicked people deceive you by telling you things that are wrong. Do not let them persuade you to doubt what you now firmly believe. [18] Instead, live in such a manner that you experience more and more our Savior Jesus Christ acting kindly toward you, and that you get to know him better and better.

I pray that everyone will honor Jesus Christ both now and forever! May this truly be so!

ULB:

[17] Therefore, beloved, since you know these things, guard yourselves so that you are not led astray by the deceit of lawless people and you lose your own faithfulness. [18] But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May the glory be to him both now and forever. Amen!

translationWords:

- beloved
- know, knowledge, make known
- astray, go astray, led astray, stray
- deceive, deceit, deception, deceptive
- lawless, lawlessness
- faithful, faithfulness
- grace, gracious
- Lord
- Savior
- Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus
- glory, glorious
- forever
- amen, truly

translationNotes:

- **Connecting Statement:** - Peter finishes instructing the believers and ends his letter.

- **Therefore, beloved, since you know these things** - "These things" refers to the truths about the patience of God and the teachings of these false teachers.
- **guard yourselves** - "protect yourselves"

- **so that you are not led astray by the deceit of lawless people** - This can be stated in active form. AT: "so that lawless people do no lead you astray with their deceitful words" (See: Active or Passive)
- **led astray ... deceit** - Being persuaded to disobey God is spoken of as it were being led off the right path to follow. Deceitful or false teachings are spoken of as if they were someone who could lead another person off the right path. (See: Metaphor)
- **you lose your own faithfulness** - Faithfulness is spoken of as if it were a possession that believers could lose. AT: "you stop being faithful" (See: Metaphor)
- **grow in the grace and knowledge** - "increase in the grace and knowledge"
- **the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ** - You can translate "grace" and "knowledge" using verbal phrases. See how you translated similar phrases in 1:2 and 1:8 and 2:20. AT: "experience more and more our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ acting kindly toward you, and that you get to know him better and better" (UDB) (See: Abstract Nouns).

Links:

- Introduction to 2 Peter
- 2 Peter 03 General Notes
- 2 Peter 03 Translation Questions

translationQuestions

2 Peter 1

Q? Who wrote Second Peter?

A. Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ. [1:1]

Q? To whom did Peter write?

A. Peter wrote to those who had received the same precious faith. [1:1]

Q? How were all the things of divine power for life and godliness given to Peter and the recipients of faith?

A. They were given to them through the knowledge of God. [1:3]

Q? Why did God give Peter and the recipients of faith all the things of divine power for life and godliness, along with great and precious promises?

A. He did that so that they might be sharers in the divine nature. [1:3-4]

Q? What were the recipients of faith ultimately supposed to gain through their faith?

A. They were ultimately supposed to gain love through their faith. [1:5-7]

Q? What has the spiritually blind person forgotten?

A. He has forgotten the cleansing from his old sins [1:9]

Q? If the brothers did their best to make their calling and election sure, what would happen?

A. They would not stumble, and an entrance would be granted to them into the eternal kingdom of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [1:10-11]

Q? Why did Peter think it was right for him to remind the brothers of these things?

A. Becuase their Lord Jesus Christ had shown him that he would soon remove his tent. [1:12-14]

Q? What did those who were eyewitness of Jesus' majesty see?

A. They saw that he received from God the Father honor and glory. [1:16-17]

Q? How can we be certain that the prophetic word is sure?

A. Because written prophecy does not come from the reasoning of the prophet, nor any prophecy from the will of man, but by men carried along by the Holy Spirit who spoke from God. [1:19-21]

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2 Peter 2

Q? What will false teachers secretly bring to the believers?

A. False teachers will bring destructive heresies and deny the master who brought them . [2:1]

Q? What will come upon the false teachers?

A. Quick destruction and condemnation would come upon the false teachers. [2:1]

Q? What will false teachers do with deceptive words?

A. False teachers greedily make a profit off of the brothers. [2:1-3]

Q? Who did God not spare?

A. God did not spare the angels who sinned, the ancient world, and the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. [2:4-6]

Q? Who did God preserve in the Flood?

A. God preserved Noah with seven others. [2:5]

Q? What did God show by not sparing some and preserving others?

A. God's actions showed that the Lord knows how to rescue the godly men and how to keep the righteous men in custody. [2:9]

Q? Who were the glorious ones the ungodly men were unafraid to blaspheme?

A. The glorious one were angels, who do not bring insulting judgments against men to the Lord. [2:10-11]

_____

Q? Who do the false teachers entice?

A. The false teachers entice unstable souls. [2:14]

_____

Q? Who stopped the prophet Balaam's insanity?

A. A mute donkey speaking in a human voice stopped Balaam. [2:15-16]

_____

Q? To what is a man a slave?

A. A man is a slave to whatever overcomes him. [2:19]

_____

Q? For those who escape the wickedness of the world through the knowledge of Jesus Christ and then return to them, what would be better?

A. What would be better is for them not to have known the way of righteousness. [2:20-21]

_____

2 Peter 3

Q? Why did Peter write this second letter?

A. He wrote so that the beloved might recall the words said before by the prophets and about the command of their Lord and Savior. [3:1-2]

Q? What would mockers say in the last days?

A. Mockers would question the promise of Jesus' return and say that all things remain the same since the beginning of creation. [3:3-4]

Q? How were the heavens and earth established, and how were they being reserved for fire and for the day of judgment and the destruction of ungodly people?

A. They were established and reserved by the word of God. [3:5-7]

Q? Why was the Lord patient towards the beloved?

A. Because he desires that they not perish, but have time for all to repent. [3:9]

Q? How will the day of the Lord come?

A. The day of the Lord will come like a thief. [3:10]

Q? Why did Peter ask the beloved what kind of people they should be in respect to holy living and godliness?

A. Because the heavens and earth would be destroyed, and because they expected righteousness to live in the new heavens and new earth. [3:11-13]

Q? What will happen to undiscipled and unstable men who distort the wisdom given to Paul and distort other Scriptures?

A. Their actions will result in their own destruction. [3:15-16]

Q? Rather than being led astray by deceit and losing their own faithfulness, what did Peter command the beloved to do?

A. He commanded them to grow in the grace and knowledge of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [3:17-18]

translationWords

adultery, adulterous, adulterer, adulteress

Definition:

The term "adultery" refers to a sin that involves a married person having sexual relations with someone who is not his spouse. The term "adulterous" describes this kind of behavior or the person who commits this sin.

- The term "adulterer" refers generally to any person who commits adultery.
- Sometimes the term "adulteress" is used to specify that it was a woman who committed adultery.
- Adultery breaks the promises that a husband and wife made to each other in their covenant of marriage.
- God commanded the Israelites to not commit adultery.
- The term "adulterous" is often used in a figurative sense to describe the people of Israel as being unfaithful to God, especially when they worshiped false gods.

Translation Suggestions:

- If the target language does not have one word that means "adultery," this term could be translated with a phrase such as, "having sexual relations with someone else's wife" or "being intimate with another person's spouse."
- Some languages may have an indirect way of talking about adultery, such as "sleeping with someone else's spouse" or "being unfaithful to one's wife." (See: euphemism)
- When "adulterous" is used in a figurative sense, it is best to translate it literally in order to communicate God's view of his disobedient people as being compared to an unfaithful spouse. If this does not communicate accurately in the target language, the figurative use of "adulterous" could be translated as "unfaithful" or "immoral" or "like an unfaithful spouse."

(See also: commit, committed, commitment, covenant, fornication, sexual immorality, , have sex with, have relations with, sleep with, lovemaking, unfaithful)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[13-06]**"Do not commit **adultery**."
- **[28-02]** Do not commit **adultery**.

- **[34-07]**"The religious leader prayed like this, 'Thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like other men—such as robbers, unjust men, **adulterers**, or even like that tax collector.'"

amen, truly

Definition:

The term "amen" is a word used to emphasize or call attention to what a person has said. It is often used at the end of a prayer. Sometimes it is translated as "truly."

- When used at the end of a prayer, "amen" communicates agreement with the prayer or expresses a desire that the prayer be fulfilled.
- In his teaching, Jesus used "amen" to emphasize the truth of what he said. He often followed that by "and I say to you" to introduce another teaching that related to the previous teaching.
- When Jesus uses "amen" this way, some English versions (and the ULB) translate this as "verily" or "truly."
- Another word meaning "truly" is sometimes translated as "surely" or "certainly" and is also used to emphasize what the speaker is saying.

Translation Suggestions:

- Consider whether the target language has a special word or phrase that is used to emphasize something that has been said.
- When used at the end of a prayer or to confirm something, "amen" could be translated as, "let it be so" or "may this happen" or "that is true."
- When Jesus says, "truly I tell you," this could also be translated as, "Yes, I tell you sincerely" or "That is true, and I also tell you."
- The phrase, "truly, truly I tell you" could be translated as "I tell you this very sincerely" or "I tell you this very earnestly" or "what I am telling you is true."
-

(See: fulfill, true, truth, come true)

Bible References:

Waiting

angel, archangel

Definition:

An angel is a powerful spirit being whom God created. Angels exist to serve God by doing whatever he tells them to do. The term "archangel" refers to the angel who rules or leads all the other angels.

- The word "angel" literally means "messenger."
- The term "archangel" literally means "chief messenger." The only angel referred to in the Bible as an "archangel" is Michael.
- In the Bible, angels gave messages to people from God. These messages included instructions about what God wanted the people to do.
- Angels also told people about events that were going to happen in the future or events that had already happened.
- Angels have God's authority as his representatives and sometimes in the Bible they spoke as if God himself was speaking.
- Other ways that angels serve God is by protecting and strengthening people.
- A special phrase, "angel of Yahweh" has more than one possible meaning: 1) It may mean "angel who represents Yahweh" or "messenger who serves Yahweh." 2) It may refer to Yahweh himself, who looked like an angel as he talked to a person. Either one of these meanings would explain the angel's use of "I" as if Yahweh himself was talking.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate "angel" could include, "messenger from God" or "God's heavenly servant" or "God's spirit messenger."
- The term "archangel" could be translated as "chief angel" or "head ruling angel" or "leader of the angels."
- Also consider how these terms are translated in a national language or another local language.
- The phrase "angel of Yahweh" should be translated using the words for "angel" and "Yahweh." This will allow for different interpretations of that phrase. Possible translations could include, "angel from Yahweh" or "angel sent by Yahweh" or "Yahweh who looked like an angel."

(See: How to Translate Unknowns)

(See also: chief, head, messenger, Michael, ruler, rulers, rule, servant, slave, slavery)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[02-12]** God placed large, powerful **angels** at the entrance to the garden to keep anyone from eating the fruit of the tree of life.
- **[22-03]** The **angel** responded to Zechariah,"I was sent by God to bring you this good news."
- **[23-06]** Suddenly, a shining **angel** appeared to them (the shepherds), and they were terrified. The **angel** said, "Do not be afraid, because I have some good news for you."
- **[23-07]** Suddenly, the skies were filled with **angels** praising God…
- **[25-08]** Then **angels** came and took care of Jesus.
- **[38-12]** Jesus was very troubled and his sweat was like drops of blood. God sent an **angel** to strengthen him.
- **[38-15]**"I could ask the Father for an army of **angels** to defend me."

apostle, apostleship

Definition:

The "apostles" were men sent by Jesus to preach about God and his kingdom. The term "apostleship" refers to the position and authority of those who were chosen as apostles.

- The word "apostle" means, "someone who is sent out for a special purpose." The apostle has the same authority as the one who sent him.
- Jesus' twelve closest disciples became the first apostles. Other men, such as Paul and James, also became apostles.
- By God's power, the apostles were able to boldly preach the gospel and heal people, including forcing demons to come out of people.

Translation Suggestions:

- The word "apostle" can also be translated with a word or phrase that means, "someone who is sent out" or "sent out one" or "person who is called to go out and preach God's message to people."
- It is important to translate the terms "apostle" and "disciple" in different ways from each other.
- Also consider how this term was translated in a Bible translation in a local or national language. (See How to Translate Unknowns)

(See also: authority, disciple, James (son of Zebedee), Paul, Saul, the twelve, the eleven)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[26-10]** Then Jesus chose twelve men who were called his **apostles**. The **apostles** traveled with Jesus and learned from him.
- **[30-01]** Jesus sent his **apostles** to preach and to teach people in many different villages.
- **[38-02]** Judas was one of Jesus' **apostles**. He was in charge of the **apostles'** money bag, but he loved money and often stole from the bag.
- **[43-13]** The disciples devoted themselves to the **apostles'** teaching, fellowship, eating together, and prayer.
- **[46-08]** Then a believer named Barnabas took Saul to the **apostles** and told them how Saul had preached boldly in Damascus.

arrogant

Definition:

The term "arrogant" means to be proud, usually in an obvious, outward way.

- An arrogant person will often boast about himself.
- To be arrogant usually includes thinking that other people are not as important or talented as oneself.
- People who do not honor God and who are in rebellion against him are arrogant because they do not acknowledge how great God is.

(See also: acknowledge, boast, proud, pride, prideful)

Bible References:

Waiting

ash, ashes, dust

Facts:

The term "ash" or "ashes" refers to the grey powdery substance that is left behind after wood is burned. It is sometimes used figuratively to refer to something that is worthless or useless.

- In the Bible sometimes the word "dust" is used when speaking about ashes. It can also refer to the fine, loose dirt that can form on dry ground.
- An "ash heap" is a pile of ashes.
- In ancient times, sitting in ashes was a sign of mourning or grieving.
- When grieving, it was the custom to wear rough, scratchy sackcloth and sit in ashes or sprinkle the ashes on the head.
- Putting ashes on the head was also a sign of humiliation or embarrassment.
- When someone is striving for something worthless, it is said to be like "feeding on ashes."
- When translating "ashes," use the word in the project language that refers to the burned-up remains after wood has burned.
- Note that an "ash tree" is a completely different term.

(See also: fire, sackcloth)

Bible References:

Waiting

astray, go astray, led astray, stray

Definition:

The terms "stray" and "go astray" mean to disobey God's will. People who are "led astray" have allowed other people or circumstances to influence them to disobey God.

- The word "astray" gives a picture of leaving a clear path or a place of safety to go down a wrong and dangerous path.
- Sheep who leave the pasture of their shepherd have "strayed." God compares sinful people to sheep who have left him and "gone astray."

Translation Suggestions:

- The phrase "go astray" could be translated as, "go away from God" or "take a wrong path away from God's will" or "stop obeying God" or "live in a way that goes away from God."
- To "lead someone astray" could be translated as, "cause someone to disobey God" or "influence someone to stop obeying God" or "cause someone to follow you down a wrong path."

(See: disobey, disobedient, disobedience, shepherd, to shepherd)

Bible References:

Waiting

authority

Definition:

The term "authority" refers to the power of influence and control that someone has over someone else.

- Kings and other governing rulers have authority over the people they are ruling.
- The word "authorities" refers to people, governments, or organizations that have authority over others.
- Masters have authority over their servants or slaves. Parents have authority over their children.
- Governments have the authority or right to make laws that govern their citizens.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "authority" can also be translated as "control" or "right" or "qualifications."
- Sometimes "authority" is used with the meaning of "power."
- When "authorities" is used to refer to people or organizations who rule people, it could also be translated as "leaders" or "rulers" or "powers."
- The phrase "by his own authority" could also be translated as, "with his own right to lead" or "based on his own qualifications."
- The expression, "under authority" could be translated as, "responsible to obey" or "having to obey others' commands."

(See also: citizen, command, to command, commandment, obey, obedient, obedience, power, powers, ruler, rulers, rule)

Bible References:

Waiting

Balaam

Facts:

Balaam was a pagan prophet whom King Balek hired to curse Israel while they were camped at the Jordan River in northern Moab, preparing to enter the land of Canaan.

- Balaam was from the city of Pethor, which was located in the region around the Euphrates River, about 400 miles away from the land of Moab.
- The Midianite king, Balek, was afraid of the strength and numbers of the Israelites, so he hired Balaam to curse them.
- As Balaam was traveling toward Israel, an angel of God stood in his path so that Balaam's donkey stopped. God also gave the donkey the ability to speak to Balaam.
- God did not allow Balaam to curse the Israelites and commanded him to bless them instead.
- Later however, Balaam still brought evil on the Israelites when he influenced them to worship the false god Baal-peor.

(Translation suggestions: Translate Names)

(See also: bless, blessed, blessing, Canaan, Canaanite, curse, cursed, donkey, mule, Euphrates, Jordan River, Midian, Midianites, Moab, Moabite, Moabitess, Peor, Mount Peor, Baal Peor)

Bible References:

Waiting

barren

Definition:

To be "barren" means to not be fertile or fruitful.

- Soil or land that is barren is not able to produce any plants.
- A woman who is barren is one who is physically unable to conceive or bear a child.

Translation Suggestions:

- When "barren" is used to refer to land, it could be translated as "not fertile" or "unfruitful" or "without plants."
- When it is referring to a barren woman, it could be translated as "childless" or "not able to bear children" or "unable to conceive a child."

Bible References:

Waiting

beloved

Definition:

The term "beloved" is an expression of affection that describes someone who is loved and dear to someone else.

- The term "beloved" literally means "loved (one)" or "(who is) loved."
- God refers to Jesus as his "beloved Son."
- In their letters to Christian churches, the apostles frequently address their fellow believers as "beloved."

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could also be translated as "loved" or "loved one" or "well-loved" or "very dear."
- In the context of talking about a close friend, this could be translated as "my dear friend" or "my close friend." In English it is natural to say, "my dear friend, Paul" or "Paul, who is my dear friend." Other languages may find it more natural to order this in a different way.
- Note that the word "beloved" comes from the word for God's love, which is unconditional, unselfish, and sacrificial.

(See also: love)

Bible References:

Waiting

blameless

Definition:

The term "blameless" literally means "without blame." It is used to refer to a person who obeys God wholeheartedly, but it does not mean that the person is sinless.

- Abraham and Noah were considered blameless before God.
- A person who has a reputation for being "blameless" behaves in a way that honors God.
- According to one verse, a person who is blameless is "one who fears God and turns away from evil."

Translation Suggestions:

- This could also be translated as, "with no fault to his character" or "completely obedient to God" or "avoiding sin" or "keeping away from evil."

Bible References:

Waiting

blasphemy, blaspheme, blasphemous

Definition:

In the Bible, the term "blasphemy" refers to speaking in a way that shows a deep disrespect for God or people. To "blaspheme" someone is to speak against that person so that others think something false or bad about him.

- Most often, to blaspheme God means to slander or insult him by saying things that are not true about him or by behaving in an immoral way that dishonors him.
- It is blasphemy for a human being to claim to be God or to claim that there is a God other than the one true God.
- Some English versions translate this term as "slander" when it refers to blaspheming people.

Translation Suggestions:

- To "blaspheme" can be translated as, to "say evil things against" or to "dishonor God" or to "slander."
- Ways to translate "blasphemy" could include, "speaking wrongly about others" or "slander" or "spreading false rumors."

(See also: dishonor, dishonorable, slander, slanderer)

Bible References:

Waiting

blemish

Facts:

The term "blemish" refers to a physical defect or imperfection on an animal or person. It can also refer to spiritual imperfections and faults in people.

- For certain sacrifices, God instructed the Israelites to offer an animal with no blemishes or defects.
- This is a picture of how Jesus Christ was the perfect sacrifice, without any sin.
- Believers in Christ have been cleansed from their sin by his blood and are considered to be without blemish.
- Ways to translate this term could include, "defect" or "imperfection" or "sin," depending on the context.

(See also: , believer, clean, sacrifice, offering, sin, sinful, sinner, sinning)

Bible References:

Waiting

bold, boldly, boldness

Definition:

These terms all refer to having courage and confidence to speak the truth and do the right thing even when it is difficult or dangerous.

- A "bold" person is not afraid to say and do what is good and right, including defending people who are being mistreated. This could be translated as "courageous" or "fearless."
- In the New Testament, the disciples continued to "boldly" preach about Christ in public places, in spite of the danger of being put in jail or killed. This could be translated as "confidently" or "with strong courage" or "courageously."
- The "boldness" of these early disciples in speaking the good news of Christ's redeeming death on the cross resulted in the gospel being spread throughout Israel and nearby countries and finally, to the rest of the world. "Boldness" could also be translated as "confident courage."

(See also: confidence, confident, good news, gospel, redeem, redemption, redeemer)

Bible References:

Waiting

brother

Definition:

The term "brother" usually refers to a male person who shares at least one biological parent with another person.

- In the Old Testament, the term "brothers" is also used as a general reference to relatives, such as members of the same tribe, clan, or people group.
- In the New Testament, the apostles often used "brothers" to refer to fellow Christians, including both men and women, since all believers in Christ are members of one spiritual family, with God as their heavenly Father.
- A few times in the New Testament, the apostles used the term "sister" when referring specifically to a fellow Christian who was a woman, or to emphasize that both men and women are being included. For example, James emphasizes that he is talking about all believers when he refers to "a brother or sister who is in need of food or clothing."

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate this term with the literal word that is used in the target language to refer to a natural or biological brother, unless this would give wrong meaning.
- In the Old Testament especially, when "brothers" is used very generally to refer to members of the same family, clan, or people group, possible translations could include, "relatives" or "clan members" or "fellow Israelites."
- In the context of referring to a fellow believer in Christ, this term could be translated as, "brother in Christ" or "spiritual brother."
- If both males and females are being referred to and "brother" would give a wrong meaning, then a more general kinship term could be used that would include both males and females.
- Other ways to translate this term so that it refers to both male and female believers could be, "fellow believers" or "Christian brothers and sisters."
- Make sure to check the context to determine whether only men are being referred to, or whether both men and women are included.

(See also: apostle, the twelve, the eleven, God the Father, Heavenly Father, sister, spirit, spiritual)

Bible References:

Waiting

call, calling, called, call out

Definition:

The terms "call" and "call out" literally means to say something loudly to someone who is not nearby. There are also several figurative meanings.

- To "call out" to someone means to shout or speak loudly to someone far away. It can also mean to ask someone for help, especially God.
- Often in the Bible, "call" has a meaning of "summon" or "command to come" or "request to come."
- God calls people to come to him and be his people. This is their "calling."
- The term "called" is used in the Bible to mean that God has appointed or chosen people to be his children, to be his servants and proclaimers of his message of salvation through Jesus.
- This term is also used in the context of calling someone a name. For example, "He is called John," means, "He is named John" or "His name is John."
- To be "called by the name of" means that someone is given the name of someone else. God says that he has called his people by his name.
- A different expression, "I have called you by name" means that God knows a person's name personally and has specifically chosen him.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "call" could be translated by a word that means "summon," which includes the idea of being intentional or purposeful in calling.
- The expression "call out to you" could be translated as "ask you for help" or "pray to you urgently."
- When the Bible says that God has "called" us to be his servants, this could be translated as, "specially chose us" or "appointed us" to be his servants.
- "You must call his name" can also be translated as, "you must name him."
- "His name is called" could also be translated as, "his name is" or "he is named."
- To "call out" could be translated as, "say loudly" or "shout" or "say with a loud voice." Make sure the translation of this does not sound like the person is angry.
- The expression "your calling" could be translated as "your purpose" or "God's purpose for you" or "God's special work for you."
- To "call on the name of the Lord" could be translated as "seek the Lord and depend on him" or "trust in the Lord and obey him."
- To "call for" something could be translated by "demand" or "ask for" or "command."
- The expression "you are called by my name" could be translated as, "I have given you my name, showing that you belong to me."
- When God says, "I have called you by name," this could be translated as, "I know your name and have chosen you."

(See: pray, prayer)

Bible References:

Waiting

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children, child

Definition:

In the Bible, the term "child" is often used to generally refer to someone who is young in age, including an infant. The term "children" is the plural form and also has several figurative uses.

- In the Bible, disciples or followers are sometimes called "children."
- Often the term "children" is used to refer to a person's descendants.
- The phrase "children of" can refer to being characterized by something. Some examples of this would be:

  - children of the light
  - children of obedience
  - children of the devil

- This term can also refer to people who are like spiritual children. For example, "children of God" refers to people who belong to God through faith in Jesus.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "children" could be translated as "descendants" when it is referring to a person's great-grandchildren or great-great-grandchildren, etc.
- Depending on the context, "children of" could be translated as, "people who have the characteristics of" or "people who behave like."
- If possible, the phrase, "children of God" should be translated literally since an important biblical theme is that God is our heavenly Father. A possible translation alternate would be, "people who belong to God" or "God's spiritual children."
- When Jesus calls his disciples "children," this could also be translated as, "dear friends" or "my beloved disciples."
- When Paul and John refer to believers in Jesus as "children," this could also be translated as "dear fellow believers."
- The phrase, "children of the promise" could be translated as, "people who have received what God promised them."

(See also: descendant, promise, son, spirit, spiritual, believer, beloved other)

Bible References:

Waiting

clean, cleanse

Definition:

The tern "clean" literally means to not have any dirt or stain. In the Bible, it is often used figuratively to mean, "pure," "holy," or "free from sin."

- "Cleanse" is the process of making something "clean." It could also be translated as "wash" or "purify."
- In the Old Testament, God told the Israelites which animals he had specified as ritually "clean" and which ones were "unclean." Only the clean animals were permitted to be used for eating or for sacrifice. In this context, the term "clean" means that the animal was acceptable to God for use as a sacrifice.
- A person who had certain skin diseases would be unclean until the skin was healed enough to no longer be contagious. Instructions for cleansing the skin had to be obeyed in order for that person to be declared "clean" again.
- Sometimes "clean" is used figuratively to refer to moral purity.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could be translated with the common word for "clean" or "pure" (in the sense of being not dirty).
- Other ways to translate this could include, "ritually clean" or "acceptable to God."
- "Cleanse" could be translated by "wash" or "purify."
- Make sure that the words used for "clean" and "cleanse" can also be understood in a figurative sense.

(See also: holy, holiness, unclean, sacrifice, offering)

Bible References:

Waiting

command, to command, commandment

Definition:

The term "to command" means to order someone to do something. A "command" or "commandment" is what the person was ordered to do.

- Although these terms have basically the same meaning, "commandment" often refers to certain commands of God which are more formal and permanent, such as the "Ten Commandments."
- A command can be positive ("Honor your parents") or negative ("Do not steal").
- To "take command" means to "take control" or "take charge" of something or someone.

Translation Suggestions

- It is best to translate this term differently from the term, "law." Also compare with the definitions of "decree" and "statute."
- Some translators may prefer to translate "command" and "commandment" with the same word in their language.
- Others may prefer to use a special word for commandment that refers to lasting, formal commands that God has made.

(See decree, statute, statutes, law, principle, Ten Commandments)

Bible References:

Waiting

condemn, condemnation

Definition:

The terms "condemn" and "condemnation" refer to judging someone for doing something wrong.

- Often the word "condemn" includes punishing that person for what they did wrong.
- Sometimes "condemn" means to falsely accuse someone or to judge someone harshly.
- The term "condemnation" refers to the act of condemning or accusing someone.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, this term could be translated as "harshly judge" or "criticize falsely."
- The phrase "condemn him" could be translated as,"judge that he is guilty" or "state that he must be punished for his sin."
- The term "condemnation" could be translated as, "harsh judging" or "declaring to be guilty" or "punishment of guilt."

(See also: judge, judgment, punish, punishment)

Bible References:

Waiting

corrupt, corruption

Definition:

The terms "corrupt" and "corruption" refer to a state of affairs in which people have become ruined, immoral, or dishonest.

- The term "corrupt" literally means to be "bent" or "broken" morally.
- A person who is corrupt has turned away from truth and is doing things that are dishonest or immoral.
- To corrupt someone means to influence that person to do dishonest and immoral things.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "to corrupt" could be translated as "to influence to do evil" or "to cause to be immoral."
- A corrupt person could be described as a person "who has become immoral" or "who practices evil."
- This term could also be translated as "bad" or "immoral" or "evil."
- The term corruption could be translated as "the practice of evil" or "evil" or "immorality."

(See also: evil, wicked, wickedness)

Bible References:

Waiting

create, creation, Creator

Definition:

The term "create" means to make something, or to cause something to be. Whatever is created is called a "creation." God is called the "Creator" because he caused everything in the entire universe to come into existence.

- When this term is used to refer to God creating the world, it means he made it out of nothing.
- When human beings "create" something, it means they made it out of things that already existed.
- Sometimes "create" is used in a figurative way to describe something abstract, such as creating peace or creating a pure heart in someone.
- The term "creation" can refer to the very beginning of the world when God first created everything. It can also be used to refer generally to everything that God created. Sometimes the word "creation" refers more specifically to just the people in the world.

Translation Suggestions:

- Some languages may have to directly say that God created the world "out of nothing" to make sure this meaning is clear.
- The phrase, "since the creation of the world" means, "since the time when God created the world."
- A similar phrase, "at the beginning of creation" could be translated as, "when God created the world at the beginning of time" or "when the world was first created."
- To preach the good news "to all creation" means to preach the good news "to all people everywhere on earth."
- The phrase, "Let all creation rejoice" means, "Let everything that God created rejoice."
- Depending on the context, "create" could be translated as, "make" or "cause to be" or "make out of nothing."
- The term "the Creator" could be translated as, "the One who created everything" or "God, who made the whole world."
- Phrases like "your Creator" could be translated as, "God, who created you."

(See: God, good news, gospel, world)

Bible References:

se, "since the creation of the world" means, "since the time when God created the world was created.

Waiting

curse, cursed

Definition:

The term "curse" means to cause negative things to happen to the person or thing that is being cursed.

- A curse can be a statement that harm will happen to someone or something.
- To curse someone can also be an expression of desire that bad things will happen to them.
- It can also refer to the punishment or other negative things that someone causes to happen to someone.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could be translated as "cause bad things to happen to" or "declare that something bad will happen to" or "swear to cause evil things to happen to."
- In the context of God sending curses on his disobedient people, it could be translated as, "punish by allowing bad things to happen."
- The term "cursed" when used to describe people could be translated as, "(this person) will experience much trouble."
- The phrase "cursed be" could be translated as, "May (this person) experience great difficulties."
- The phrase, "Cursed is the ground" could be translated as, "The soil will not be very fertile."
- "Cursed be the day I was born" could also be translated as, "I am so miserable it would have been better not to be born."
- However, if the target language has the phrase "cursed be" and it has the same meaning, then it is good to keep the same phrase.

(See also: bless, blessed, blessing)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[02-09]** God said to the snake, "You are **cursed**!"
- **[02-11]** "Now the ground is **cursed**, and you will need to work hard to grow food."
- **[04-04]** "I will bless those who bless you and **curse** those who **curse** you."
- **[39-07]** Then Peter vowed, saying, "May God **curse** me if I know this man!"
- **[50-16]** Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin into this world, God **cursed** it and decided to destroy it.

darkness

Definition:

The term "darkness" literally means an absence of light. There are also several figurative meanings of this term:

- As a metaphor, "darkness" means "impurity" or "evil" or "spiritual blindness."
- It also refers to anything related to sin and moral corruption.
- The expression, "dominion of darkness" refers to all that is evil and ruled by Satan.
- The term "darkness" can also be used as a metaphor for death. (See: Metaphor)
- People who do not know God are said to be "living in darkness," which means they do not understand or practice righteousness.
- God is light (righteousness) and the darkness (evil) cannot overcome that light.
- The place of punishment for those who reject God is sometimes referred to as "outer darkness."

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate this term literally, with a word in the project language that refers to the absence of light. This could also be a term that refers to the darkness of a room with no light or to the time of day when there is no light.
- For the figurative uses, it is also important to keep the image of darkness in contrast to light, as a way to describe evil and deception in contrast to goodness and truth.
- Depending on the context, other ways to translate this could be, "darkness of night" (as opposed to "light of day") or "not seeing anything, like at night" or "evil, like a dark place".

(See also: corrupt, corruption, dominion, kingdom, light, redeem, redemption, righteous, righteousness)

Bible References:

Waiting

day of the Lord, day of Yahweh

Description:

The Old Testament term "day of Yahweh" is used to refer to a specific time(s) when God would punish people for their sin.

- The New Testament term "day of the Lord" usually refers to the day or time when the Lord Jesus will come back to judge people at the end of time.
- This final, future time of judgment and resurrection, is also sometimes referred to as the "last day." This time will begin when the Lord Jesus comes back to judge sinners and will permanently establish his rule.
- The word "day" in these phrases may sometimes refer to a literal day or it may refer to a "time" or "occasion" that is longer than a day.
- Sometimes the punishment is referred to as a "pouring out of God's wrath" upon those who do not believe.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, other ways to translate "day of Yahweh" could include, "time of Yahweh" or "time when Yahweh will punish his enemies" or "time of Yahweh's wrath."
- Other ways to translate "day of the Lord" could include "time of the Lord's judgment" or "time when the Lord Jesus will return to judge people."

(See also: biblical time: day, judgment day, Lord,resurrection, Yahweh)

Bible References:

Waiting

deceive, deceit, deception, deceptive

Definition:

The term "deceive" means to cause someone to believe something that is not true. The act of deceiving someone is called "deceit."

- Another term, "deception" also refers to the act of causing someone to believe something that is not true.
- Someone who causes others to believe something false is a "deceiver." For example, Satan is called a "deceiver." The evil spirits that he controls are also deceivers.
- A person, action, or message that is not truthful can be described as "deceptive."
- The terms "deceit" and "deception" have the same meaning, but there are some small differences in how they are used.
- The descriptive terms, "deceitful" and "deceptive" have the same meaning and are used in the same contexts.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate "deceive" could include "lie to" or "cause to have a false belief" or "cause someone to think something that is not true."
- The term "deceived" could also be translated as, "caused to think something false" or "lied to" or "tricked" or "fooled" or "misled."
- "Deceiver" could be translated as, "liar" or "one who misleads" or "someone who deceives."
- Depending on the context, the terms "deception" or "deceit" could be translated with a word or phrase that means "falsehood" or "lying" or "trickery" or "dishonesty."
- The terms "deceptive" or "deceitful" could be translated by "untruthful" or "misleading" or "lying" to describe a person who speaks or acts in a way that causes other people to believe things that are not true.

(See: true, truth, come true)

Bible References:

Waiting

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defile, be defiled

Definition:

The terms "defile" and "be defiled" refer to becoming polluted or dirty. Something can be defiled in a physical, moral, or ritual sense.

- God warned the Israelites to not defile themselves by eating or touching things that he had declared as "unclean" and "unholy."
- Certain things such as dead bodies and contagious diseases were declared by God to be unclean and would defile a person if they touched them.
- God commanded the Israelites to avoid sexual sins. These would defile them and make them unacceptable to God.
- There were also certain kinds of bodily processes that defiled a person temporarily until he could become ritually pure again.
- In the New Testament, Jesus taught that sinful thoughts and actions are what truly defile a person.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "defile" can also be translated as "cause to be unclean" or "cause to be unrighteous" or "cause to be ritually unacceptable."
- To "be defiled" could be translated as "become unclean" or "be caused to be morally unacceptable (to God)" or "become ritually unacceptable."

(See also: unclean, clean, cleanse)

Bible References:

Waiting

divine

Definition:

The term "divine" refers to anything pertaining to God.

- Some ways this term is used include, "divine authority," "divine judgment," "divine nature," "divine power," and "divine glory."
- In one passage in the Bible, the term "divine" is used to describe something about a false deity.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate the term "divine" could include, "God's" or "from God" or "pertaining to God" or "characterized by God."
- For example, "divine authority" could be translated as "God's authority" or "authority that comes from God."
- The phrase "divine glory" could be translated as "God's glory" or "the glory that God has" or "glory that comes from God."
- Some translations may prefer to use a different word when describing something that pertains to a false god.

(See also: authority, [:en:obe:kt:falsegod]], glory, glorious, God, judge, judgment, power, powers)

Bible References:

Waiting

donkey, mule

Definition:

A donkey is a four-legged work animal, similar to a horse, but smaller and with longer ears.

- A mule is the sterile offspring of a male donkey and a female horse.
- Mules are very strong animals and so they are valuable work animals.
- Both donkeys and mules are used for carrying burdens and people when traveling.
- In Bible times, kings would ride a donkey in times of peace, rather than a horse, which was used for times of war.
- Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey a week before he was crucified there.

(See: How to Translate Unknowns)

Bible References:

Waiting

earth, earthly

Definition:

The term "earth" refers to the world that human beings live on, along with all other forms of life.

- "Earth" can also refer to the ground or soil that covers the land.
- This term is often used figuratively to refer to the people who live on the earth. (See: Metonymy
- The expressions, "let the earth be glad" and "He will judge the earth" are examples of figurative uses of this term.
- The term "earthly" usually refers to physical things in contrast to spiritual things.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term can be translated by the word or phrase that the local language or nearby national languages use to refer to the planet earth on which we live.
- Depending on the context, "earth" could also be translated as, "world" or "land" or "dirt" or "soil."
- When used figuratively, "earth" could be translated as, "people on the earth" or "people living on earth" or "everything on earth."
- Ways to translate "earthly" could include, "physical" or "things of this earth" or "visible."

(See also: spirit, spiritual, world, worldly)

Bible References:

Waiting

chosen one, choose, chosen people, Chosen One, the elect

Definition:

The term, "the elect" literally means "chosen ones" or "chosen people" and refers to those whom God has appointed or selected to be his people. "Chosen One" or "Chosen One of God" is a title that refers to Jesus, who is the chosen Messiah.

- The term "choose" means to select something or someone or to decide something. It is often used to refer to God appointing people to belong to him and to serve him.
- To be "chosen" means to be "selected" or "appointed" to be or do something.
- God chose people to be holy, to be set apart by him for the purpose of bearing good spiritual fruit. That is why they are called "the chosen (ones) or "the elect."
- The term "chosen one" is sometimes used in the Bible to refer to certain people such as Moses and King David whom God had appointed as leaders over his people. It is also used to refer to the nation of Israel as God's chosen people.
- The phrase "the elect" is an older term that literally means "the chosen ones" or "the chosen people." This phrase in the original language is plural when referring to believers in Christ.
- In older English Bible versions, the term "elect" is used in both the Old and New Testaments to translate the word for "chosen one(s)." More modern versions use "elect" only in the New Testament, to refer to people who have been saved by God through faith in Jesus. Elsewhere in the Bible text, they translate this word more literally as "chosen ones."

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate "elect" with a word or phrase that means "chosen ones" or "chosen people." These could also be translated as "people whom God chose" or "the ones God appointed to be his people."
- The phrase, "who were chosen" could also be translated as "who were appointed" or "who were selected" or "whom God chose."
- "I chose you" could be translated as, "I appointed you" or "I selected you."
- In reference to Jesus, "Chosen One" could also be translated as, "God's chosen One" or "God's specially appointed Messiah" or "the One God appointed (to save people)."

(See: appoint, appointed, Christ, Messiah)

Bible References:

Waiting

endure, endurance

Definition:

The term "endure" means to last a long time or to bear something difficult with patience.

- It also means to stand firm when times of testing come, without giving up.
- The term "endurance" can mean "patience," "bearing up under a trial," or "persevering when being persecuted."
- The encouragement to Christians to "endure to the end" is telling them to obey Jesus, even if this causes them to suffer.
- To "endure suffering" can also mean to "experience suffering."

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate the term "endure" could include, "persevere" or "keep believing" or "continue to do what God wants you to do" or "stand firm."
- In some contexts, "to endure" could be translated as, "to experience" or "to go through."
- With the meaning of lasting for a long time, the term "endure" could also be tranlsated as "last" or "continue." The phrase, "will not endure" could be translated as, "will not last" or "will not continue to survive."
- Ways to translate "endurance" could include, "perseverance" or "continuing to believe" or "remaining faithful."

(See also: persevere, perseverance)

Bible References:

Waiting

envy, covet

Definition:

The term "envy" refers to being jealous of someone because of what that person possesses or because of that person's admirable qualities. The term "covet" means to envy someone to the point of strongly desiring to have something that person has.

- Envy is normally a negative feeling of resentment because of another person's success, good fortune, or possessions.
- Coveting is a strong desire to have someone else's property, or even, someone else's spouse.

(See also: jealous, jealousy)

Bible References:

Waiting

everlasting, eternal, eternity

Definition:

The terms "everlasting" and "eternal" have very similar meanings and refer to something that will always exist or that lasts forever.

- The term "eternity" refers to a state of being that has no beginning or end. It can also refer to life that never ends.
- After this present life on earth, humans will spend eternity either in heaven with God or in hell apart from God.
- The terms "eternal life" and "everlasting life" are used in the New Testament to refer to living forever with God in heaven.
- The phrase "forever and ever" has the idea of time that never ends and expresses what eternity or eternal life is like.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate "eternal" or "everlasting" could include,"unending" or "never stopping" or "always continuing."
- The terms "eternal life" and "everlasting life" could also be translated as "life that never ends" or "life that continues without stopping" or "the raising up of our bodies to live forever."
- Depending on the context, different ways to translate "eternity" could include, "existing outside of time" or "unending life" or "life in heaven."
- Also consider how this word is translated in a Bible translation in a local or national language. (See: How to Translate Unknowns)

(See also: forever, life, live, living, alive)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[27-01]** One day, an expert in the Jewish law came to Jesus to test him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit **eternal life**?"
- **[28-01]** One day, a rich young ruler came up to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to have **eternal life**?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only One who is good, and that is God. But if you want to have **eternal life**, obey God's laws."
- **[28-10]** Jesus answered, "Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or property for my name's sake, will receive 100 times more and will also receive **eternal life**."

evil, wicked, wickedness

Definition:

The terms "evil" and "wicked" both refer to anything that is opposed to God's holy character and will.

- While "evil" may describe a person's character, "wicked" may refer more to a person's behavior. However, both terms are very similar in meaning.
- The term "wickedness" refers to the state of being that exists when people do wicked things.
- The results of evil are clearly shown in how people mistreat others by killing, stealing, slandering or being cruel and unkind.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the terms "evil" and "wicked" can be translated as "bad" or "sinful" or "immoral"
- Other ways to translate these could include, "not good" or "not righteous" or "not moral."
- Make sure the words or phrases that are used to translate these terms fit the context that is natural in the target language.

(See also: disobey, disobedient, sin, sinful, sinner, good, goodness, righteous, demon, evil spirit, unclean spirit)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[02-04]**"God just knows that as soon as you eat it, you will be like God and will understand good and **evil** like he does."
- **[03-01]** After a long time, many people were living in the world. They had become very **wicked** and violent.
- **[03-02]** But Noah found favor with God. He was a righteous man living among **wicked** people.
- **[04-02]** God saw that if they all kept working together to do **evil**, they could do many more sinful things.
- **[08-12]**"You tried to do **evil** when you sold me as a slave, but God used the **evil** for good!"
- **[14-02]** They (Canaanites) worshiped false gods and did many **evil** things.
- **[17-01]** But then he (Saul) became a **wicked** man who did not obey God, so God chose a different man who would one day be king in his place.
- **[18-11]** In the new kingdom of Israel, all the kings were **evil**.

- **[29-08]** The king was so angry that he threw the **wicked** servant into prison until he could pay back all of his debt.
- **[45-02]** They said, "We heard him (Stephen) speak **evil** things about Moses and God!"
- **[50-17]** He (Jesus) will wipe away every tear and there will be no more suffering, sadness, crying, **evil**, pain, or death.

faith

Definition:

In general, the term "faith" refers to a belief, trust or confidence in someone or something.

- To "have faith" in someone is to believe that what he says and does is true and trustworthy.
- To "have faith in Jesus" means to believe all of God's teachings about Jesus. It especially means that people trust in Jesus and his sacrifice to cleanse them from their sin and to rescue them from the punishment they deserve because of their sin.
- True faith or belief in Jesus will cause a person to produce good spiritual fruits or behaviors because the Holy Spirit is living in him.
- Sometimes "faith" refers generally to all the teachings about Jesus, as in the expression, "the truths of the faith."
- In contexts such as "keep the faith" or "abandon the faith," the term "faith" refers to the state or condition of believing all the teachings about Jesus.

Translation Suggestions:

- In some contexts, "faith" can be translated as "belief" or "conviction" or "confidence" or "trust."
- For some languages these terms will be translated using forms of the verb "believe." (See: Abstract Nouns])
- The expression, "keep the faith" could be translated by, "keep believing in Jesus" or "continue to believe in Jesus."
- The sentence, "they must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith" could be translated by, "they must keep believing all the true things about Jesus that they have been taught."
- The expression, "my true son in the faith" could be translated by something like, "who is like a son to me because I taught him to believe in Jesus" or "my true spiritual son, who believes in Jesus."

(See also: believe, believe in, belief, faithful, faithfulness)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[05-06]** When Isaac was a young man, God tested Abraham's **faith** by saying, "Take Isaac, your only son, and kill him as a sacrifice to me."
- **[31-07]** Then he (Jesus) said to Peter, "You man of little **faith**, why did you doubt?"
- **[32-16]** Jesus said to her, "Your **faith** has healed you. Go in peace."

- **[38-09]** Then Jesus said to Peter, "Satan wants to have all of you, but I have prayed for you, Peter, that your **faith** will not fail.

faithful, faithfulness

Definition:

To be "faithful" to God means to consistently live according to God's teachings. It means to be loyal to him by obeying him.The state or condition of being faithful is "faithfulness."

- A person who is faithful can be trusted to always keep his promises and to always fulfill his responsibilities to other people.
- A faithful person perseveres in doing a task, even when it is long and difficult.
- Faithfulness to God is the consistent practice of doing what God wants us to do.

Translation Suggestions:

- In many contexts, "faithful" can be translated as "loyal" or "dedicated" or "dependable."
- In other contexts, "faithful" can be translated by a word or phrase that means, "continuing to believe" or "persevering in believing and obeying God."
- Ways that "faithfulness" could be translated could include, "persevering in believing" or "loyalty" or "trustworthiness" or "believing and obeying God."

(See also: faith, believe, believe in, belief)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[08-05]** Even in prison, Joseph remained **faithful** to God, and God blessed him.
- **[14-12]** Even so, God was still **faithful** to His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- **[15-13]** The people promised to remain **faithful** to God and follow his laws.
- **[17-09]** David ruled with justice and **faithfulness** for many years, and God blessed him. However, toward the end of his life he sinned terribly against God.
- **[18-04]** God was angry with Solomon and, as a punishment for Solomon's **unfaithfulness**, he promised to divide the nation of Israel into two kingdoms after Solomon's death.
- **[35-12]**"The older son said to his father, 'All these years I have worked **faithfully** for you!"
- **[49-17]** But God is **faithful** and says that if you confess your sins, he will forgive you.
- **[50-04]** If you remain **faithful** to me to the end, then God will save you."

false prophet

Definition:

A false prophet is a person who wrongly claims that his message comes from God.

- The prophecies of false prophets are not usually fulfilled. That is, they do not come true.
- False prophets teach messages that partially or totally contradict what the Bible says.
- This term could also be translated as "person who falsely claims to be God's spokesman" or "someone who falsely claims to speak God's words."
- The New Testament teaches that in the end times there will be many false prophets who will try to deceive people into thinking that they come from God.

(See also: fulfill, prophet, prophecy, prophesy, seer, prophetess, true, truth, come true)

Bible References:

Waiting

ancestor, father, forefather

Definition:

When used literally, the term "father" refers to a person's male parent. There are also several figurative uses of this term.

- The terms "father" and "forefather" are often used to refer to the ancestors of a certain person or people group. This could also be translated as, "ancestor" or "ancestral father."
- The expression "the father of" can figuratively refer to a person who is the leader a group of related people or the source of something. For example, in Genesis 4, "the father of all who live in tents" could mean, "the first clan leader of the first people who ever lived in tents."
- The apostle Paul figuratively called himself the "father" of those he had helped to become Christians through sharing the gospel with them.

Translation Suggestions

- When talking about a father and his literal son, this term should be translated using the usual term to refer to a father in the language.
- "God the Father" should also be translated using the usual, common word for "father."
- When referring to forefathers, this term could be translated as "ancestor" or "ancestral father."
- When Paul refers to himself figuratively as a father to believers in Christ, this could be translated as "spiritual father" or "father in Christ."
- Sometimes the word "father" can be translated as "clan leader."
- The phrase "father of all lies" could be translated as, "source of all lies" or "the one from whom all lies come."

(See also: God the Father, heavenly Father, Father, son, son of, Son of God, the Son, Son)

Bible References:

Waiting

feast

Definition:

The term "feast" refers to an event where a group of people eat a very large meal together, often for the purpose of celebrating something. The action "to feast" means to eat a large amount of food or to participate in eating a feast together.

- Often there are special kinds of food that are eaten at a certain feast.
- The religious festivals that God commanded the Jews to celebrate usually included having a feast together. For this reason the festivals are often called "feasts."
- In Bible times, kings and other rich and powerful people often gave feasts to entertain their family or friends.
- In the story about the lost son, the father had a special feast prepared to celebrate the return of his son.
- A feast sometimes lasted for several days or more.
- The term "to feast" could also be translated as "to eat lavishly" or "to celebrate by eating lots of food" or "to eat a special, large meal."
- Depending on the context, "feast" could be translated as, "celebrating together with a large meal" or "a meal with a lot of food" or "a celebration meal."

(See also: festival)

Bible References:

Waiting

fire

Definition:

Fire is the heat, light, and flames that are produced when something is burned.

- Burning wood by fire turns the wood into ashes.
- The term "fire" is also used figuratively, usually referring to judgment or purification.
- The final judgment of unbelievers is in the fire of hell.
- Fire is used to refine gold and other metals. In the Bible, this process is used to explain how God refines people through difficult things that happen in their lives.
- The phrase "baptize with fire" could also be translated as, "cause you to experience suffering in order to purify you."

(See also: pure, purify, purification)

Bible References:

Waiting

flesh

Definition:

In the Bible, the term "flesh" literally refers to the soft tissue of the physical body of a human being or animal.

- The Bible also uses the term "flesh" in a figurative way to refer to all human beings or all living creatures.
- In the New Testament, the term "flesh" is used to refer to the sinful nature of human beings. This is often used in contrast to their spiritual nature.
- The expression, "own flesh and blood" refers to someone who is biologically related to another person, such as a parent, sibling, child, or grandchild.
- The expression "flesh and blood" can also refer to a person's ancestors or descendants.
- The expression, "one flesh" refers to the physical uniting of a man and woman in marriage.

Translation Suggestions:

- In the context of an animal's body, "flesh" could be translated as "body" or "skin" or "meat."
- When it is used to refer generally to all living creatures, this term could be translated as "living beings" or "everything that is alive."
- When referring in general to all people, this term could be translated as "people" or "human beings" or "everyone who lives."
- The expression, "flesh and blood" could also be translated as "relatives" or "family" or "kinfolk" or "family clan." There may be contexts where it could be translated as "ancestors" or "descendants."
- Some languages may have an expression that is similar in meaning to "flesh and blood."
- The expression, "become one flesh" could be translated as, "unite sexually" or "become as one body" or "become like one person in body and spirit." The translation of this expression should be checked to make sure it is acceptable in the project language and culture. (See: Euphemism). It should also be understood that this is figurative, and does not mean that the man and woman literally become one person.

Bible References:

Waiting

flood

Definition:

The term "flood" literally refers to a large amount of water that completely covers over the land.

- This term is also used figuratively to refer to an overwhelming amount of something, especially something that happens suddenly.
- In Noah's time, people had become so evil that God caused a worldwide flood to come over the entire surface of the earth, even covering the mountaintops. Everyone who was not in the boat with Noah drowned. All other floods cover a much smaller land area.
- This term can also be an action as in, "the land was flooded by river water."

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate the literal meaning of "flood" could include, "an overflowing of water" or "large amounts of water."
- The figurative comparison, "like a flood" could keep the literal term, or a substitute term could be used that refers to something that has a flowing aspect to it, such as a river.
- For the expression "like a flood of water" where water is already mentioned, the word "flood" could be translated as "an overwhelming amount" or "an overflowing."
- This term can be used as a metaphor as in, "do not let the flood sweep over me," which means "do not let these overwhelming disasters happen to me" or "don't let me be devastated by disasters" or "don't let your anger devastate me." (See: Metaphor)
- The figurative expression, "I flood my bed with tears" could be translated as "my tears soak my bed with water like a flood."

(See also: ark, Noah)

Bible References:

Waiting

forever

Definition:

In the Bible, the term "forever" refers to never-ending time. Sometimes it is used figuratively to mean, "a very long time."

- The term "forever and ever" emphasizes that something will always exist.
- The phrase "forever and ever" is a way of expressing what eternity or eternal life is. It also has the idea of time that never ends.
- God said that David's throne would last "forever." This is referring to the fact that David's descendant Jesus will reign as king forever.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could also be translated by "always" or "never ending."
- The phrase, "will last forever" could also be translated as "always exist" or "will never stop" or "will always continue."
- The emphatic phrase, "forever and ever" could also be translated as, "for always and always" or "not ever ending" or "which never, ever ends."
- David's throne lasting forever could be translated as, "David's descendant will reign forever" or "a descendant of mine will always be reigning."

(See also: David, everlasting, eternal, eternity, reign)

Bible References:

Waiting

fountain, spring

Definition:

The terms "fountain" and "spring" usually refer to a large amount of water that flows out naturally from the ground.

- These words are also used figuratively in the Bible to refer to blessings flowing from God or to refer to something that cleanses and purifies.
- In modern times, a fountain is often a manmade object that has water flowing out of it, such as a drinking fountain. Make sure that the translation of this term refers to a natural source of flowing water.
- Compare the translation of this term with how the term "flood" is translated.

(See also: flood)

Bible References:

Waiting

free, freedom, liberty

Definition:

The terms "free" or "freedom" refer to not being in slavery, or any other kind of bondage. Another word for "freedom" is "liberty."

- The expression, "to set someone free" or "to free someone" means to provide a way for someone to no longer be in slavery or captivity.
- In the Bible, these terms are often used figuratively to refer to how a believer in Jesus is no longer under the power of sin.
- Having "liberty" or "freedom" can also refer to no longer being required to obey the Law of Moses, but instead being free to live by the teachings and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "free" could be translated with a word or phrase that means, "not bound" or "not enslaved" or "not in slavery" or "not in bondage."
- The term "freedom" or "liberty" could be translated with a word or phrase that means, "the state of being free" or "the condition of not being a slave" or "not being bound."
- The expression "to set free" could be translated as "to cause to be free" or "to rescue from slavery" or "to release from bondage."
- A person who has been "set free" has been "released" or "taken out of" bondage or slavery.

(See also: bind, bond, bound, enslave, in bondage, servant, slave, slavery,)

Bible References:

Waiting

fruit, fruitful

Definition:

The term "fruit" literally refers to the part of a plant that can be eaten. Something that is "fruitful" has a lot of fruit. These terms are also used figuratively in the Bible.

- The Bible often uses "fruit" to refer to a person's actions and thoughts. Just as fruit on a tree shows what kind of tree it is, in the same way a person's words and actions reveal what his character is like.
- A person can produce good or bad spiritual fruit, but the term "fruitful" always has the positive meaning of producing much good fruit.
- The term "fruitful" is also used figuratively to mean "prosperous." This often refers to having many children and descendants, as well as having plenty of food and other wealth.
- In general, the expression "fruit of" refers to anything that comes from or that is produced by something else. For example, the "fruit of wisdom" refers to the good things that come from being wise.
- The expression "fruit of the land" refers generally to everything that the land produces for people to eat. This includes not only fruits such as grapes or dates, but also vegetables, nuts, and grains.
- The figurative expression "fruit of the Spirit" refers to godly qualities that the Holy Spirit produces in the lives of people who obey him.
- The expression, "fruit of the womb" refers to "what the womb produces," that is, children.

Translation Suggestions:

- It is best to translate this term using the general word for "fruit" that is commonly used in the project language to refer to the edible fruit of a fruit tree. In many languages it may be more natural to use the plural
- , "fruits" whenever it refers to more than one fruit.
- Depending on the context, the term "fruitful" could be translated as "producing much spiritual fruit" or "having many children" or "prosperous."
- The expression, "fruit of the land" could also be translated as, "food that the land produces" or "food crops that are growing in that region."
- When God created animals and people, he commanded them to "be fruitful and multiply," which refers to having many offspring. This could also be translated as, "have many offspring" or "have many children and descendants" or "have many children so that you will have many descendants."
- The expression, "fruit of the womb" could be translated as "what the womb produces" or "children a women gives birth to" or just "children." When Elisabeth says to Mary, "blessed is the fruit of your womb" she means, "blessed is the child you will give birth to." The project language may also have a different expression for this.
- Another expression, "fruit of the vine" could be translated as "vine fruit" or "grapes."

- Depending on the context, the expression "will be more fruitful" could also be translated as, "will produce more fruit" or "will have more children" or "will be prosperous."
- The apostle Paul's expression, "fruitful labor" could be translated as, "work that brings very good results" or "efforts that result in many people believing in Jesus."
- The "fruit of the Spirit" could also be translated as "works that the Holy Spirit produces" or "words and actions that show that the Holy Spirit is working in you."

(See also: descendant, grain, grapeHoly Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, vine, womb)

Bible References:

Waiting

glory, glorious

Definition:

In general, the term "glory" means honor, splendor, and extreme greatness. Anything that has glory is said to be "glorious."

- Sometimes "glory" refers to something of great value and importance. In other contexts it communicates splendor, brightness, or judgment.
- For example, the expression "glory of the shepherds" refers to the lush pastures where their sheep had plenty of grass to eat.
- Glory is especially used to describe God, who is more glorious than anyone or anything in the universe. Everything in his character reveals his glory and his splendor.
- The expression "to glory in" means to boast about or take pride in something.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, different ways to translate "glory" could include, "splendor" or "brightness" or "majesty" or "awesome greatness" or "extreme value."
- The term "glorious" could be translated as "full of glory" or "extremely valuable" or "brightly shining" or "awesomely majestic."
- The expression,"give glory to God" could be translated as "honor God's greatness" or "praise God because of his splendor" or "tell others how great God is."
- The expression "glory in" could also be translated as, "praise" or "take pride in" or "boast about" or "take pleasure in."

(See also: glorify)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[23-07]** Suddenly, the skies were filled with angels praising God, saying, "**Glory** to God in heaven and peace on earth to the people he favors!"
- **[25-06]** Then Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and all their **glory** and said, "I will give you all this if you bow down and worship me."
- **[37-01]** When Jesus heard this news, he said, "This sickness will not end in death, but it is for the **glory** of God."
- **[37-08]** Jesus responded, "Did I not tell you that you would see God's **glory** if you believe in me?"

God

Facts:

In the Bible, the term "God" refers to the eternal being who created the universe out of nothing. God exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God's personal name is "Yahweh."

- God has always existed; he existed before anything else existed, and he will continue to exist forever.
- He is the only true God and has authority over everything in the universe.
- God is perfectly righteous, infinitely wise, holy, sinless, just, merciful, and loving.
- He is a covenant-keeping God, who always fulfills his promises.
- People were created to worship God and he is the only one they should worship.
- God revealed his name as "Yahweh" which means, "he is" or "I am" or "the One who (always) exists."
- The Bible also teaches about false "gods" which are nonliving idols that people wrongly worship.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate "God" could include, "Deity" or "Creator" or "Supreme Being."
- Other ways to translate "God" could be, "Supreme Creator" or "Infinite Sovereign Lord" or "Eternal Supreme Being."
- Consider how God is referred to in a local or national language. There may also already be a word for "God" in the language being translated. If so, it is important to make sure that this word fits the characteristics of the one true God as described above.
- Many languages capitalize the first letter of the word for the one true God, to distinguish it from the word for a false god.
- Another way to make this distinction would be to use two different terms for "God" and "god."
- The phrase, "I will be their God and they will be my people" could also be translated as, "I, God, will rule over these people and they will worship me."

(Translation suggestions: How to Translate Names)

(See also: create, creation, Creator, false god, god, God the Father, Heavenly Father, Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, idol, Son of God, the Son, Yahweh,)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[01-01]God** created the universe and everything in it in six days.
- **[01-15]God** made man and woman in his own image.
- **[05-03]**"I am **God** Almighty. I will make a covenant with you."
- **[09-14]God** said, "I AM WHO I AM. Tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you.' Also tell them, 'I am Yahweh, the **God** of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is my name forever.'"
- **[10-02]** Through these plagues, **God** showed Pharaoh that he is more powerful than Pharaoh and all of Egypt's gods.
- **[16-01]** The Israelites began to worship the Canaanite gods instead of Yahweh, the true **God.**
- **[22-07]** You, my son, will be called the prophet of the **Most High God** who will prepare the people to receive the Messiah!"
- **[24-09]** There is only one **God**. But John heard **God** the Father speak, and saw Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit when he baptized Jesus.
- **[25-07]**"Worship only the Lord your **God** and only serve him."
- **[28-01]**"There is only one who is good, and that is **God**."
- **[49-09]** But **God** loved everyone in the world so much that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in Jesus will not be punished for his sins, but will live with **God** forever.
- **[50-16]** But some day **God** will create a new heaven and a new earth that will be perfect.

godly, godliness

Definition:

The term "godly" is used to describe a person who acts in a way that honors God and shows what God is like. "Godliness" is the character quality of honoring God by doing his will.

- A person who has godly character will show the fruits of the Holy Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self control.
- The quality of godliness shows that a person has the Holy Spirit and is obeying him.

Translation Suggestions:

- The phrase, "the godly" could be translated as, "godly people" or "people who obey God." (See: Nominal Adjectives)
- The adjective "godly" could be translated as "obedient to God" or "righteous" or "pleasing to God."
- The phrase, "in a godly manner" could be translated as, "in a way that obeys God" or "with actions and words that please God."
- Ways to translate "godliness" could include, "acting in a way that pleases God" or "obeying God" or "living in a righteous manner."

(See also honor, to honor, obey, obedient, obedience, righteous, righteousness, ungodly, godless, ungodliness, godlessness, unrighteous, unrighteousness)

Bible References:

Waiting

God the Father, heavenly Father, Father

Facts:

The terms, "God the Father" and "heavenly Father" refer to Yahweh, the one true God. This term also occurs as "Father," especially when Jesus is referring to him.

- God exists as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each one is fully God, and yet they are only one God. This is a mystery that mere humans cannot fully understand.
- God the Father sent God the Son (Jesus) into the world and he sends the Holy Spirit to his people.
- Anyone who believes in God the Son becomes a child of God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit comes to live in that person. This is another mystery that human beings cannot fully understand.

Translation Suggestions:

- In the phrase "God the Father," it is best to translate "Father" with the same word that the language naturally uses to refer to a human father.
- The term "heavenly Father" could be translated by "Father who lives in heaven" or "Father God who lives in heaven" or "God our Father from heaven."
- Usually "Father" is capitalized, to show that this refers to God.

(Translation suggestions: How to Translate Names)

(See also: father, forefather, God, heaven, sky, heavens, heavenly, Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus,Son of God, the Son, Son)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[24-09]** There is only one God. But John heard **God the Father** speak, and saw Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit when he baptized Jesus.
- **[29-09]** Then Jesus said, "This is what my **heavenly Father** will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."
- **[37-09]** Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "**Father**, thank you for hearing me."
- **[40-07]** Then Jesus cried out, "It is finished! **Father**, I give my spirit into your hands."
- **[42-10]**"So go, make disciples of all people groups by baptizing them in the name of **the Father**, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and by teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
- **[43-08]**"Jesus is now exalted to the right hand of **God the Father**."

- **[50-10]**"Then the righteous ones will shine like the sun in the kingdom of **God their Father**."

Gomorrah

Facts:

Gomorrah was a city located in a fertile valley, near Sodom where Abraham's nephew Lot chose to live.

- The exact location of Gomorrah and Sodom is unknown, but there are indications that they may have been located directly south of the Salt Sea, near the Valley of Siddim.
- There were many kings at war in the region where Sodom and Gomorrah were located.
- When Lot's family got captured in a conflict between Sodom and other cities, Abraham and his men rescued them.
- Not long after that, Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by God because of the wickedness of the people who lived there.

(Translation suggestions: How to Translate Names)

(See also: , Abraham, Abram , Babylon, Babylonian, Lot, Salt Sea, Dead Sea, Sodom)

Bible References:

Waiting

grace, gracious

Definition:

The word "grace" refers to help or blessing that is given to someone who has not earned it. The term "gracious" describes someone who shows grace to others.

- God's grace toward sinful human beings is a gift that is freely given.
- The concept of grace also refers to being kind and forgiving to someone who has done wrong or hurtful things.
- The expression "to find grace" is an expression that means to receive help and mercy from God. Often it includes the meaning that God is pleased with someone and helps him.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways that "grace" could be translated include, "divine kindness" or "God's favor" or "God's kindness and forgiveness for sinners" or "merciful kindness."
- The term "gracious" could be translated as "full of grace" or "kind" or "merciful" or "mercifully kind."
- The expression, "he found grace in the eyes of God" could be translated as, "he received mercy from God" or "God mercifully helped him" or "God showed his favor to him" or "God was pleased with him and helped him."

Bible References:

Waiting

heart

Definition:

In the Bible, the term "heart" is often used figuratively to refer to a person's thoughts, emotions, desires, or will.

- To have a "hard heart" is a common expression that means a person stubbornly refuses to obey God.
- The expressions "with all my heart" or "with my whole heart" mean to do something with no holding back, with complete commitment and willingness.
- The expression, "take it to heart" means to treat something seriously and apply it to one's life.
- The term "brokenhearted" describes a person who is very sad. They have been deeply hurt emotionally.

Translation Suggestions

- Some languages use a different body part such as "stomach" or "liver" to refer to these ideas.
- Other languages may use one word to express some of these concepts and another word to express others.
- If "heart" or other body part does not have this meaning, some languages may need to express this nonfiguratively with terms such as "thoughts" or "emotions" or "desires."
- Depending on the context, "with all my heart" or "with my whole heart" could be translated as, "with all my energy" or "with complete dedication" or "completely" or "with total commitment."
- The expression "take it to heart" could be translated as "treat it seriously" or "carefully think about it."
- The expression "hard-hearted" could also be translated as, "stubbornly rebellious" or "refusing to obey" or "continually disobeying God."
- Ways to translate "brokenhearted" could include, "very sad" or "feeling deeply hurt."

(See also: hard, hardness, harden other)

Bible References:

Waiting

heaven, sky, heavens, heavenly

Definition:

The term that is translated as "heaven" refers to where God lives. The same word can also mean "sky," depending on the context.

- The term "heavens" refers to everything we see above the earth, including the sun, moon, and stars. It also includes the heavenly bodies, such as far-off planets, that we can't directly see from the earth.
- The term "sky" refers to the blue expanse above the earth that has clouds and the air we breathe. Often the sun and moon are also said to be "up in the sky."
- In some contexts in the Bible, the word "heaven" could refer to either the sky or the place where God lives.
- When "heaven" is used figuratively, it is a way of referring to God. For example, when Matthew writes about the "kingdom of heaven" he is referring to the kingdom of God.

Translation Suggestions:

- When "heaven" is used figuratively, it could be translated as "God."
- For "kingdom of heaven" in the book of Matthew, it is best to keep the word "heaven" since this is distinctive to Matthew's gospel.
- The terms "heavens" or "heavenly bodies" could also be translated as, "sun, moon, and stars" or "all the stars in the universe."
- The phrase, "stars of heaven" could be translated as "stars in the sky" or "stars in the galaxy" or "stars in the universe."

(See: kingdom of God, kingdom of heaven)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[04-02]** They even began building a tall tower to reach **heaven.**
- **[14-11]** He (God) gave them bread from **heaven**, called "manna."
- **[23-07]** Suddenly, the skies were filled with angels praising God, saying, "Glory to God in **heaven** and peace on earth to the people he favors!"
- **[29-09]** Then Jesus said, "This is what my **heavenly** Father will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."
- **[37-09]** Then Jesus looked up to **heaven** and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me."
- **[42-11]** Then Jesus went up to **heaven**, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

holy, holiness

Definition:

The terms "holy" and "holiness" refer to the character of God that is totally set apart and separated from everything that is sinful and imperfect.

- Only God is absolutely holy. He makes people and things holy.
- A person who is holy belongs to God and has been set apart for the purpose of serving God and bringing him glory.
- An object that God has declared to be holy is one that he has set apart for his glory and use, such as an altar that is for the purpose of offering sacrifices to him.
- Since God is holy, people cannot approach him unless he allows them to, because they are mere human beings, sinful and imperfect.
- In the Old Testament, God set apart the priests as holy for special service to him. They had to be ceremonially cleansed from sin in order to approach God.
- God also set apart as holy certain places and things that belonged to him or in which he revealed himself, such as his temple.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate "holy" might include, "set apart for God" or "belonging to God" or "completely pure" or "perfectly sinless" or "separated from sin."
- To "make holy" is often translated as "sanctify" in English. It could also be translated as "set apart (someone) for God's glory."

(See also: Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, consecratesanctify, sanctification, set apart)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[01-16]** He (God) blessed the seventh day and made it **holy**, because on this day he rested from his work.
- **[09-12]**"You are standing on **holy** ground."
- **[13-02]**"If you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my prized possession, a kingdom of priests, and a **holy** nation."
- **[13-05]**"Always be sure to keep the Sabbath day **holy**."
- **[22-05]**"So the baby will be **holy**, the Son of God."
- **[50-02]** As we wait for Jesus to return, God wants us to live in a way that is **holy** and that honors him.

Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord

Facts:

These terms all refer to the Holy Spirit, who is God. The one true God exists eternally as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is also referred to as, "the Spirit" and "Spirit of Yahweh" and "Spirit of truth."
- Because the Holy Spirit is God, he is absolutely holy, infinitely pure, and morally perfect in all his nature and in everything he does.
- Along with the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit was active in creating the world.
- When God's Son, Jesus, returned to heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to his people to lead them, teach them, comfort them, and enable them to do God's will.
- The Holy Spirit guided Jesus and he guides those who believe in Jesus.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could simply be translated with the words used to translate "holy" and "spirit."
- Ways to translate this term could also include, "Pure Spirit" or "Spirit who is Holy" or "God the Spirit."

(See also: holy, holiness, spirit, spiritual, God, Lord, God the Father, heavenly Father, Father, Son of God, the Son, Son, gift)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[01-01]** But **God's Spirit** was there over the water.
- **[24-08]** When Jesus came up out of the water after being baptized, **the Spirit of God** appeared in the form of a dove and came down and rested on him.
- **[26-01]** After overcoming Satan's temptations, Jesus returned in the power of **the Holy Spirit** to the region of Galilee where he lived.
- **[26-03]** Jesus read, "God has given me **his Spirit** so that I can proclaim good news to the poor, freedom to captives, recovery of sight for the blind, and release to the oppressed."
- **[42-10]** "So go, make disciples of all people groups by baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and **the Holy Spirit** and by teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
- **[43-03]** They were all filled with the **Holy Spirit** and they began to speak in other languages.
- **[43-08]** "And Jesus has sent the **Holy Spirit** just as he promised he would do. The **Holy Spirit** is causing the things that you are are now seeing and hearing."

- **[43-11]** Peter answered them, "Every one of you should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that God will forgive your sins. Then he will also give you the gift of the **Holy Spirit**."
- **[45-01]** He (Stephen) had a good reputation and was full of the **Holy Spirit** and of wisdom.

honor, to honor

Definition:

The terms "honor" and "to honor" refer to giving someone respect, esteem, or reverence.

- Honor is usually given to someone who is of higher status and importance, such as a king or God.
- God also instructs Christians to honor others, but not to try to get honor for themselves.
- Children are instructed to honor their parents, which includes respect and obedience.
- the terms "honor" and "glory" are often used together, especially when referring to Jesus. These may be two different ways of referring to the same thing.
- Honor for God includes thanking and praising him, and showing him respect by obeying him and living in a way that shows how great he is.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate "honor" could include, "respect" or "esteem" or "high regard."
- The term "to honor" could be translated as "to show special respect to" or "to cause to be praised" or "to show high regard for" or "to highly value."

(See also: dishonor, dishonorable, glory, glorious, glorify, praise other)

Bible References:

Waiting

Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus

Facts:

Jesus is God's Son. The name "Jesus" means, "Yahweh saves." The term "Christ" is a title that means "anointed one" and is another word for the Messiah.

- The two names are often combined as "Jesus Christ" or "Christ Jesus." These names emphasize that God's Son is the Messiah who came to save people from being punished eternally for their sins.
- In a miraculous way, the Holy Spirit caused the eternal Son of God to be born as a human being. His earthly parents were told by an angel to call him "Jesus" because he was destined to save people from their sins.
- Jesus did many miracles that revealed that he is God and that he is the Christ, or Messiah.

Translation Suggestions:

- Many languages spell "Jesus" and "Christ" in a way that keeps the sounds or spelling as close to the original as possible. For example, "Jesucristo," "Jezus Christus," "Yesus Kristus", and "Hesukristo" are some of the ways that these names are translated into different languages.
- For the term, "Christ," some languages may prefer to use some form of the term "Messiah" throughout.
- Also consider how these names are spelled in a nearby local or national language.

(Translation suggestions: How to Translate Names)

(See also: Christ, Messiah, God, God the Father, Heavenly Father, high priest, kingdom of God, kingdom of heaven, Mary, Savior, Son of God, the Son)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[22-04]** The angel said, "You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You are to name him **Jesus** and he will be the Messiah."
- **[23-02]**"Name him **Jesus** (which means, 'Yahweh saves'), because he will save the people from their sins."
- **[24-07]** So John baptized him (Jesus), even though **Jesus** had never sinned.
- **[24-09]** There is only one God. But John heard God the Father speak, and saw **Jesus** the Son and the Holy Spirit when he baptized **Jesus**.
- **[25-08]Jesus** did not give in to Satan's temptations, so Satan left him.

- **[26-08]** Then **Jesus** went throughout the region of Galilee, and large crowds came to him. They brought many people who were sick or handicapped, including those who could not see, walk, hear, or speak, and **Jesus** healed them.
- **[31-03]** Then **Jesus** finished praying and went to the disciples. He walked on top of the water across the lake toward their boat!
- **[38-02]** He (Judas) knew that the Jewish leaders denied that **Jesus** was the Messiah and that they were plotting to kill him.
- **[40-08]** Through his death, **Jesus** opened a way for people to come to God.
- **[42-11]** Then **Jesus** was taken up to heaven, and a cloud hid him from their sight. **Jesus** sat down at the right hand of God to rule over all things.
- **[50-17]Jesus** and his people will live on the new earth, and he will reign forever over everything that exists. He will wipe away every tear and there will be no more suffering, sadness, crying, evil, pain, or death. **Jesus** will rule his kingdom with peace and justice, and he will be with his people forever.

judge, judgment

Definition:

The terms "judge" and "judgment" often refer to making a decision about whether something is morally right or wrong.

- The "judgment of God" often refers to his decision to condemn something or someone as sinful.
- God's judgment usually includes punishing people for their sin.
- The term "judge" can also mean "condemn." God instructs his people not to judge each other in this way.
- Another meaning is "arbitrate between" or "judge between," as in deciding which person is right in a dispute between them.
- In some contexts, God's "judgments" are what he has decided is right and just. They are similar to his decrees, laws, or precepts.
- "Judgment" can refer to wise decision-making ability. A person who lacks "judgment" does not have the wisdom to make wise decisions.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, ways to translate "to judge" could include, "to decide" or "to condemn" or "to punish" or "to decree."
- The term "judgment" could be translated as, "punishment" or "decision" or "verdict" or "decree" or "condemnation."
- In some contexts, the phrase "in the judgment" could also be translated as "on judgment day" or "during the time when God judges people."

(See also: decree, judge, judgment day, just, justice, justly, law, principle, law, law of Moses, God's law, law of Yahweh)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[19-16]** The prophets warned the people that if they did not stop doing evil and start obeying God, then God would **judge** them as guilty, and he would punish them.
- **[21-08]** A king is someone who rules over a kingdom and **judges** the people. The Messiah would come would be the perfect king who would sit on the throne of his ancestor David. He would reign over the whole world forever, and who would always **judge** honestly and make the right decisions.

- **[39-04]** The high priest tore his clothes in anger and shouted to the other religious leaders, "We do not need any more witnesses! You have heard him say that he is the Son of God. What is your **judgment**?"
- **[50-14]** But God will **judge** everyone who does not believe in Jesus. He will throw them into hell, where they will weep and grind their teeth in anguish forever.

judgment day

Definition:

The term,"judgment day" refers to a future time when God will judge every person.

- God has made his Son, Jesus Christ, the judge for all people.
- On judgment day, Christ will judge people on the basis of his righteous character.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could also be translated as "judgment time" since it could refer to more than one day.
- Other ways to translate this term could include, "the end time when God will judge all people."
- Some translations capitalize this term to show that it is the name of a special day or time: "Judgment Day" or "Judgment Time."

(See also: judge, judgment, Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus, heaven, sky, heavens, heavenly, hell, lake of fire)

Bible References:

Waiting

kingdom

Definition:

A kingdom is a group of people ruled by a king. It also refers to the realm or political regions over which a king or other ruler has control and authority.

- A kingdom can be of any geographical size. A king might govern a nation or country or only one city.
- The term "kingdom" can also refer to a spiritual reign or authority, as in the term "kingdom of God."
- God is the ruler of all creation, but the term "kingdom of God" especially refers to his reign and authority over the people who have believed in Jesus and who have submitted to his authority.
- The Bible also talks about Satan having a "kingdom" in which he temporarily rules over many things on this earth. His kingdom is evil and is referred to as "darkness."

Translation Suggestions:

- When referring to a physical region that is ruled over by a king, the term "kingdom" could be translated as, "country (ruled by a king)" or "king's territory" or "region ruled by a king."
- In a spiritual sense, "kingdom" could be translated as "ruling" or "reigning" or "controlling" or "governing."
- One way to translate "kingdom of priests" might be, "spiritual priests who are ruled by God."
- The phrase, "kingdom of light" could be translated as, "God's reign that is good like light" or "when God, who is light, rules people" or "the light and goodness of God's kingdom." It is best to keep the word "light" in this expression since that is a very important term in the Bible.
- Note that the term "kingdom" is different from an empire, in which an emperor rules over several countries.

(See also: authority, king, kingdom of God, kingdom of heaven, kingdom of Israel, Judah, Judah, kingdom of Judah, priest, priesthood)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[13-02]** God said to Moses and the people of Israel, "If you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my prized possession, a **kingdom** of priests, and a holy nation."
- **[18-04]** God was angry with Solomon and, as a punishment for Solomon's unfaithfulness, he promised to divide the nation of Israel in two **kingdoms** after Solomon's death.

- **[18-07]** Ten of the tribes of the nation of Israel rebelled against Rehoboam. Only two tribes remained faithful to him. These two tribes became the **kingdom** of Judah.
- **[18-08]** The other ten tribes of the nation of Israel that rebelled against Rehoboam appointed a man named Jeroboam to be their king. They set up their **kingdom** in the northern part of the land and were called the **kingdom** of Israel.
- **[21-08]** A king is someone who rules over a **kingdom** and judges the people.

know, knowledge, make known

Definition:

To "know" means to understand something or to be aware of a fact. The expression "make known" is an expression that means to tell information.

- The term "knowledge" refers to information that people know. It can apply to knowing things in both the physical and spiritual worlds.
- To "know about" God means to understand facts about him because of what he has revealed to us.
- To "know" God means to have a relationship with him. This also applies to knowing people.
- To know God's will means to be aware of what he has commanded, or to understand what he wants a person to do.
- To "know the Law" means to be aware of what God has commanded or to understand what God has instructed in the laws he gave to Moses.
- Sometimes "knowledge" is used as a synonym for "wisdom," which includes living in a way that is pleasing to God.
- The "knowledge of God" is sometimes used as a synonym for the "fear of Yahweh."

Translation Suggestions

- Depending on the context, ways to translate "know" could include, "understand" or "be familiar with" or "be aware of" or "be acquainted with" or "be in relationship with."
- Some languages have two different words for "know" depending on whether it refers to knowing facts or to knowing a person and having a relationship with him.
- The term "make known" could be translated as "cause people to know" or "reveal" or "tell about" or "explain."
- To "know about" something could be translated as "be aware of" or "be familiar with."
- The expression "know how to" means to understand the process or method of getting something done. It could also be translated as, "be able to" or "have the skill to."
- The term "knowledge" could also be translated as, "what is known" or "wisdom" or "understanding," depending on the context.

(See also: law, law of Moses, God's law, law of Yahweh, reveal, revelation, understand, understanding, wise, wisdom)

Bible References:

Waiting

lamp

Definition:

The term "lamp" generally refers to something that produces light. The lamps used in Bible times were usually oil lamps.

The type of lamp that was used in Bible times is a small container with a fuel source, usually oil, that gives light when it burns.

- Ordinary oil lamps were usually made out of a common piece of pottery filled with olive oil, with a wick placed in the oil to burn.
- For some lamps, the pot or jar was oval-shaped, with one end pinched close together to hold the wick.
- An oil lamp could be carried or placed on a stand so that its light could fill a room or house.
- In scripture, lamps are used in several figurative ways as symbols of light and life.

(See also: lampstand, life, live, living, alive, light)

Bible References:

Waiting

last day, last days, latter days

Definition:

The term "last days" or "latter days" refers generally to the time period at the end of the current age.

- This time period will be an unknown length of time.
- The "last days" are a time of judgment upon those who have turned away from God.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term, "last days" can also be translated as "final days" or "end times."
- In some contexts, this could be translated as, "end of the world" or "when this world ends."

(See also: day of the Lord, day of Yahweh, judge, judgment, turn, turn away, turn back, world, worldly)

Bible References:

Waiting

lawless, lawlessness

Definition:

The term "lawless" describes a person who does not obey laws or rules. When a country or group of people are in a state of "lawlessness" it means there is widespread disobedience, rebellion, or immorality.

- A lawless person is rebellious and does not obey God's laws.
- The apostle Paul wrote that in the last days there will be a "man of lawlessness," or a "lawless one," who will be influenced by Satan to do evil things.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "lawless" could also be translated as, "rebellious" or "disobedient" or "law-defying".
- The term "lawlessness" could be translated as, "not obeying any laws" or "rebellion (against God's laws)."
- The phrase, "man of lawlessness" could be translated as, "man who does not obey any laws" or "man who rebels against God's laws."
- It is important to keep the concept of "law" in this term, if possible.
- Note that the term "unlawful" has a different meaning from this term.

(See also: law, principle, lawful, lawfully, unlawful, law, law of Moses, God's law, law of Yahweh)

Bible References:

Waiting

letter, epistle

Definition:

A letter is a written message sent to a person or group of persons who are usually a distance away from the writer. An epistle is a special type of letter, often written in a more formal style, for a special purpose, such as teaching.

- In New Testament times, epistles and other types of letters were written on parchment made from animal skins or on papyrus made from plant fibers.
- The New Testament epistles from Paul, John, James, Jude, and Peter are letters of instruction that they wrote to encourage, exhort, and teach the early Christians in various cities throughout the Roman Empire.
- Ways to translate this term could include, "written message" or "written down words" or "writing."

(See also: encourage, encouragement, exhort, exhortation, teach, teaching, teacher, taught)

Bible References:

Waiting

life, live, living, alive

Definition:

All these terms refer to being physically alive, not dead. They are also used figuratively to refer to being alive spiritually. The following discusses what is meant by "physical life" and "spiritual life."

1. Physical life

- Physical life is the presence of the spirit in the body. God breathed life into Adam's body, and he became a living being.
- A "life" can also refer to an individual person, as in, "a life was saved".
- Sometimes the word "life" refers to the experience of living, as in, "his life was enjoyable."
- It can also refer to a person's lifespan as in the expression, "the end of his life."
- The term "living" may refer to being physically alive as in, "my mother is still living." It may also refer to dwelling somewhere as in, "they were living in the city."
- In the Bible, the concept of "life" is often contrasted with the concept of "death."

2. Spiritual life

- A person has spiritual life when he believes in Jesus and God gives that person a transformed life with the Holy Spirit living in him.
- This life is also called "eternal life" to indicate that it does not end.
- The opposite of spiritual life is spiritual death, which means being separated from God and experiencing eternal punishment.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, "life" can be translated as "existence" or "person" or "soul" or "being" or "experience."
- The term "live" could be translated by "dwell" or "reside" or "exist."
- The expression "end of his life" could be translated as, "when he stopped living."
- The expression "spared their lives' could be translated as, "allowed them to live" or "did not kill them."
- The expression "they risked their lives" could be translated as, "they put themselves in danger" or "they did something that could have killed them."
- When the Bible text talks about being alive spiritually, "life" could be translated as "spiritual life" or "eternal life," depending on the context.
- The concept of "spiritual life" could also be translated as, "God making us alive in our spirits" or "new life by God's Spirit" or "being made alive in our inner self."
- Depending on the context, the expression "give life" could also be translated as, "cause to live" or "give eternal life" or "cause to live eternally."

(See also: death, die, dead, everlasting, eternal, eternity)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[01-10]** So God took some dirt, formed it into a man, and breathed **life** into him.
- **[03-01]** After a long time, many people were **living** in the world.
- **[08-13]** When Joseph's brothers returned home and told their father, Jacob, that Joseph was still **alive**, he was very happy.
- **[17-09]** However, toward the end of his [David's] **life** he sinned terribly before God.
- **[27-01]** One day, an expert in the Jewish law came to Jesus to test him, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal **life**?"
- **[37-05]** Jesus replied, "I am the Resurrection and the **Life**."
- **[44-05]** "You are the ones who told the Roman governor to kill Jesus. You killed the author of **life**, but God raised him from the dead."

lord, master, sir

Definition:

The term "lord" refers to someone who has ownership or authority over other people.

- This word is sometimes translated as "master" when addressing Jesus or when referring to someone who owns slaves.
- Some English versions translate this as "sir" in contexts where someone is politely addressing someone of higher status.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term should be translated as "master" when it refers to a person who owns slaves. It could also be used by a servant to address the person he works for.
- When it refers to Jesus, it could be translated as "master" if the context shows it means "religious teacher."
- If the person addressing Jesus does not know him, "lord" could be translated as "sir." This translation would also be used for other contexts in which a polite form of address to a man is called for.
- When referring to God the Father or to Jesus, this term is written as "Lord" (capitalized).

(See also: Lord)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[25-05]** But Jesus replied to Satan by quoting from the Scriptures. He said, "In God's word, he commands his people, 'Do not test the **Lord** your God.'"
- **[25-07]** Jesus replied, "Get away from me, Satan! In God's word he commands his people, 'Worship only the **Lord** your God and only serve him.'"
- **[26-03]** This is the year of the **Lord's** favor.
- **[27-02]** The law expert replied that God's law says, "Love the **Lord** your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind."
- **[31-05]** Then Peter said to Jesus, "**Master**, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water"
- **[43-09]**"But know for certain that God has caused Jesus to become both **Lord** and Messiah!"
- **[47-03]** By means of this demon she predicted the future for people, she made a lot of money for her **masters** as a fortuneteller.
- **[47-11]** Paul answered, "Believe in Jesus, the **Master**, and you and your family will be saved."
-

Lord

Facts:

The term "Lord" refers to someone who has ownership or authority over people. When it is capitalized, it is a title that refers to God. (Note however that when used as a form of addressing someone or at the beginning of a sentence it may be capitalized and have the meaning of "sir" or "master.")

- In the Old Testament, this term is also used in expressions such as, "Lord God Almighty" or "Lord Yahweh" or "Yahweh our Lord."
- In the New Testament, the apostles used this term in expressions such as, "Lord Jesus" and "Lord Jesus Christ," which communicate that Jesus is God.
- The term "Lord" in the New Testament is also used alone as a direct reference to God, especially in quotations from the Old Testament. For example, the Old Testament text has, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of Yahweh" and the New Testament text has, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."
- In the ULB and UDB, the title, "Lord" is only used to translate the actual Hebrew and Greek words that mean "Lord." It is never used as a translation of God's name (Yahweh), as is done in many translations.

Translation Suggestions:

- Some languages translate this term as "Master" or "Ruler" or some other term that communicates ownership or supreme ruler.
- In the appropriate contexts, many translations capitalize the first letter of this term to make it clear to the reader that this is a title referring to God.
- For places in the New Testament where there is a quote from the Old Testament, the term "Lord God" could be used to make it clear that this is a reference to God.

(Translation suggestions: How to Translate Names)

(See also: God, Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus, lord, master, sir, ruler, rulers, rule, Yahweh)

Bible References:

Waiting

Lot

Facts:

Lot was the name of Abraham's nephew.

- He was the son of Abraham's brother Haran.
- Lot traveled with Abraham to the land of Canaan and settled in the city of Sodom
- Lot was the ancestor of the Moabites and Ammonites.
- When enemy kings attacked Sodom and captured Lot, Abraham came with several hundred men to rescue Lot and recover his belongings.
- The people living in the city of Sodom were very wicked so God destroyed that city. But he first told Lot and his family to leave the city so that that they could escape.

(Translation suggestions: How to Translate Names)

(See also: Abraham, Abram, Ammon, Ammonites, Ammonitess, Haran, Moab, Moabite, Moabitess, Sodom)

Bible References:

Waiting

love

Definition:

To love another person is to care for that person and do things that will benefit him. There are different meanings for "love" which some languages may express using different words:

1. The kind of love that comes from God is focused on the good of others, even when it doesn't benefit oneself. This kind of love cares for others, no matter what they do. God himself is love and is the source of true love.

- Jesus showed this kind of love by sacrificing his life in order to rescue us from sin and death. He also taught his followers to love others sacrificially.
- When people love others with this kind of love, it involves actions that show that someone is thinking of what will cause the other person to thrive. This kind of love especially includes forgiving others.
- In the ULB, the word "love" refers to this kind of sacrificial love, unless a Translation Note indicates a different meaning.

2. Another word in the New Testament refers to brotherly love or love for a friend or family member.

- This term refers to natural human love between friends or relatives.
- It can also be used in such contexts as, "They love to sit in the most important seats at a banquet." This means that they "like very much" or "greatly desire" to do that.

3. The word "love" can also refer to romantic love between a man and a woman.

4. In the figurative expression, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated," the term "loved" refers to God's choosing of Jacob to be in a covenant relationship with him. This could also be translated as "chosen." Although Esau was also blessed by God, he wasn't given the privilege of being in the covenant. The term "hated" is used figuratively here to mean "rejected" or "not chosen."

Translation Suggestions:

- Unless indicated otherwise in a Translation Note, the word "love" in the ULB refers to the kind of sacrificial love that comes from God.
- Some languages may have a special word for the kind of unselfish, sacrificial love that God has. Ways to translate this might include, "devoted, faithful caring" or "care for unselfishly" or "love from God." Make sure that the word used to translate God's love can include giving up one's own interests to benefit others and loving others no matter what they do.
- Sometimes the English word "love" describes the deep caring that people have for friends and family members. Some languages might translate this with a word or phrase that means, "like very much" or "care for" or "have strong affection for."
- In contexts where the word "love" is used to express a strong preference for something, this could be translated by "strongly prefer" or "like very much" or "greatly desire."

- Some languages may also have a separate word that refers to romantic or sexual love between a husband and wife.
- Many languages must express "love" as an action. So for example, they might translate "love is patient, love is kind" as, "when a person loves someone, he is patient with him and kind to him."

(See also: covenant, death, die, dead, sacrifice, offering, save, safe, sin, sinful, sinner, sinning)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[27-02]** The law expert replied that God's law says, "**Love** the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. And **love** your neighbor as yourself."
- **[33-08]**"The thorny ground is a person who hears God's word, but, as time passes, the cares, riches, and pleasures of life choke out his **love** for God."
- **[36-05]** As Peter was talking, a bright cloud came down on top of them and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son whom I **love**."
- **[39-10]**"Everyone who **loves** the truth listens to me."
- **[47-01]** She (Lydia) **loved** and worshiped God.
- **[48-01]** When God created the world, everything was perfect. There was no sin. Adam and Eve **loved** each other, and they **loved** God.
- **[49-03]** He (Jesus) taught that you need to **love** other people the same way you love yourself.
- **[49-04]** He (Jesus) also taught that you need to **love** God more than you **love** anything else, including your wealth.
- **[49-07]** Jesus taught that God **loves** sinners very much.
- **[49-09]** But God **loved** everyone in the world so much that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in Jesus will not be punished for his sins, but will live with God forever.
- **[49-13]** God **loves** you and wants you to believe in Jesus so he can have a close relationship with you.

lust

Definition:

Lust is a very strong desire, usually in the context of wanting something sinful or immoral.

- In the Bible, "lust" usually refers to sexual desire for someone other than one's own spouse.
- Sometimes this term is used in a figurative sense to refer to worshiping idols.
- Depending on the context, "lust" could also be translated as "wrong desire" or "strong desire" or "wrongful sexual desire" or "strong immoral desire" or "to strongly desire to sin."
- The phrase "to lust after" could also be translated as "to wrongly desire" or "to think immorally about" or "to immorally desire."

(See also: adultery, adulterous, adulterer, adulteress, idol, idolatrous)

Bible References:

Waiting

majesty

Definition:

The term "majesty" refers to greatness and splendor, often in relation to the qualities of a king.

- In the Bible, "majesty" frequently refers to the greatness of God, who is the supreme King over the universe.
- "Your Majesty" is a way of addressing a king.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could be translated as, "kingly greatness" or "royal splendor."
- "Your Majesty" could be translated as something like "your Highness" or "your Excellency" or using a natural way of addressing a ruler in the target language.

(See also: king)

Bible References:

Waiting

mind

Definition:

The term "mind" refers to the part of a person that thinks and makes decisions.

- The mind of each person is the total of his or her thoughts and reasoning.
- To "have the mind of Christ" means to be thinking and acting as Jesus Christ would think and act. It means being obedient to God the Father, obeying the teachings of Christ, being enabled to do this through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- To "change his mind" means someone made a different decision or had a different opinion than he had previously.

Translation Suggestions

- The term "mind" could also be translated as "thoughts" or "reasoning" or "thinking" or "understanding."
- The expression, "keep in mind" could be translated as, "remember" or "pay attention to this" or "be sure to know this."
- The expression, "heart, soul, and mind" could also be translated as, "what you feel, what you believe, and what you think about."
- The expression "call to mind" could be translated as, "remember" or "think about."
- The expression, "changed his mind and went" could also be translated as, "decided differently and went" or "decided to go after all" or "changed his opinion and went."

(See also: believe, believe in, belief, heart, soul)

Bible References:

Waiting

mock, ridicule, scoff at

Definition:

The terms "mock," ridicule," and "scoff at" all refer to making fun of someone, especially in a cruel way.

- Mocking often involves imitating people's words or actions with the intent to embarrass them or show contempt for them.
- The Roman soldiers mocked or ridiculed Jesus when they put a robe on him and pretended to honor him as king.
- A group of young people ridiculed or scoffed at Elisha when they called him a name, making fun of his bald head.
- The term "scoff at" can also refer to ridiculing an idea that is not considered believable or important.

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[21-12]** Isaiah prophesied that people would spit on, **mock**, and beat the Messiah.
- **[39-05]** The Jewish leaders all answered the high priest, "He deserves to die!" Then they blindfolded Jesus, spit on him, hit him, and **mocked** him.
- **[39-12]** The soldiers whipped Jesus, and put a royal robe and a crown made of thorns on him. Then they **mocked** him by saying, "Look, the King of the Jews!"
- **[40-04]** Jesus was crucified between two robbers. One of them **mocked** Jesus, but the other said, "Do you have no fear of God?"
- **[40-05]** The Jewish leaders and the other people in the crowd **mocked** Jesus. They said to him, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross and save yourself! Then we will believe you."

Noah

Facts:

Noah was a man who lived over 4,000 years ago, at the time when God sent a worldwide flood to destroy all the evil people in the world. God told Noah to build a gigantic boat in which he and his family could live while the flood waters covered the earth.

- Noah was a righteous man who obeyed God in everything.
- When God told Noah how to build the gigantic boat, Noah built it exactly the way God told him to.
- Inside the boat, Noah and his family were kept safe and later their children and grandchildren filled the earth with people again.
- Everyone born since the time of the flood is a descendant of Noah.

(Translation suggestions: How to Translate Names)

(See also: descendant, descended from)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[03-02]** But **Noah** found favor with God.
- **[03-04]** **Noah** obeyed God. He and his three sons built the boat just the way God had told them.
- **[03-13]** Two months later God said to **Noah**, "You and your family and all the animals may leave the boat now. Have many children and grandchildren and fill the earth." So **Noah** and his family came out of the boat.

patient, patience

Definition:

The terms "patient" and "patience" refer to persevering through difficult circumstances. Often patience involves waiting.

- When people are patient with someone, it means they are loving that person and forgiving whatever faults that person has.
- The Bible teaches God's people to be patient when facing difficulties and to be patient with each other.
- Because of his mercy, God is patient with people, even though they are sinners who deserve to be punished.

(See also: endure, endurance, forgive, forgiveness, persevere, perseverance)

Bible References:

Waiting

Paul, Saul

Facts:

Paul was a leader of the early church who was sent by Jesus to take the good news to many other people groups.

- Paul was a Jew who was born in the Roman city of Tarsus, and was therefore also a Roman citizen.
- Paul was originally called by his Jewish name, Saul.
- Saul became a Jewish religious leader and arrested Jews who became Christians because he thought they were dishonoring God by believing in Jesus.
- Jesus revealed himself to Saul in a blinding light and told him to stop hurting Christians.
- Saul believed in Jesus and began teaching his fellow Jews about him.
- Later, God sent Saul to teach nonJewish people about Jesus and started churches in different cities and provinces of the Roman empire. At this time he started being called by the Roman name "Paul."
- Paul also wrote letters to encourage and teach Christians in the churches in these cities. Several of these letters are in the New Testament.

(Translation suggestions: How to Translate Names)

(See also: Christian, Jewish Leaders, Rome)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[45-06]** A young man named **Saul** agreed with the people who killed Stephen and guarded their robes while they threw stones at him.
- **[46-01] Saul** was the young man who guarded the robes of the men who killed Stephen. He did not believe in Jesus, so he persecuted the believers.
- **[46-02]** While **Saul** was on his way to Damascus, a bright light from heaven shone all around him, and he fell to the ground. **Saul** heard someone say, "**Saul**! **Saul**! Why do you persecute me?"
- **[46-05]** So Ananias went to **Saul**, placed his hands on him, and said, "Jesus who appeared to you on your way here, sent me to you so that you can regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." **Saul** immediately was able to see again, and Ananias baptized him.
- **[46-06]** Right away, **Saul** began preaching to the Jews in Damascus, saying, "Jesus is the Son of God!"
- **[46-09]** Barnabas and **Saul** went there (Antioch) to teach these new believers more about Jesus and to strengthen the church.

- **[47-01]** As **Saul** traveled throughout the Roman Empire, he began to use his Roman name, ”**Paul**.”
- **[47-14]** **Paul** and other Christian leaders traveled to many cities, preaching and teaching people the good news about Jesus.

peace, peaceful

Definition:

The term "peace" refers to a state of being or a feeling of having no conflict, anxiety, or fearfulness. A person who is "peaceful" feels calm and assured of being safe and secure.

- "Peace" can also refer to a time when people groups or countries are not at war with each other. These people are said to have "peaceful relations."
- To "make peace" with a person or a group of people means to take actions to cause fighting to stop.
- A "peacemaker" is someone who does and says things to influence people to live at peace with each other.
- To be "at peace" with other people means being in a state of not fighting against those people.
- A good or right relationship between God and people happens when God saves people from their sin. This is called having "peace with God."
- The greeting "grace and peace" was used by the apostles in their letters to their fellow believers as a blessing.
- The term "peace" can also refer to being in a good relationship with other people or with God.

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[15-06]** God had commanded the Israelites not to make a **peace** treaty with any of the people groups in Canaan.
- **[15-12]** Then God gave Israel **peace** along all its borders.
- **[16-03]** Then God provided a deliverer who rescued them from their enemies and brought **peace** to the land.
- **[21-13]** He (Messiah) would die to receive the punishment for other people's sin. His punishment would bring **peace** between God and people.
- **[48-14]** David was the king of Israel, but Jesus is the king of the entire universe! He will come again and rule his kingdom with justice and **peace**, forever.
- **[50-17]** Jesus will rule his kingdom with **peace** and justice, and he will be with his people forever.

people group, peoples, the people, a people

Definition:

The term "peoples" or "people groups" refers to groups of people who share a common language and culture. The phrase "the people" often refers to a gathering of people in a certain place or at a specific event.

- When God set apart "a people" for himself, it means that he chose certain people to belong to him and serve him.
- In Bible times, the members of a people group usually had the same ancestors and lived together in a particular country or area of land.
- Depending on the context, a phrase such as "your people" can mean "your people group" or "your family" or "your relatives."
- The term "peoples" is often used to refer to all people groups on the earth. Sometimes it refers more specifically to people who are not Israelites or who do not serve Yahweh. In some English Bible translations the term "nations" is also used in this way.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "people group" could be translated by a word or phrase that means "large family group" or "clan" or "ethnic group."
- A phrase such as "my people" could be translated as "my relatives" or "my fellow Israelites" or "my family" or "my people group," depending on the context.
- The expression "scatter you among the peoples" could also be translated as "cause you to go live with many different people groups" or "cause you to separate from each other and go live in many different regions of the world."
- The term "the peoples" or "the people" could also be translated as "the people in the world" or "people groups," depending on the context.
- The phrase, "the people of" could be translated as, "the people living in" or "the people descended from" or "the family of" depending on whether it is followed by the name of a place or a person.
- "All the peoples of the earth" could be translated as, "everyone living on earth" or "every person in the world" or "all people."
- The phrase "a people" could also be translated as, "a group of people" or "certain people" or "a community of people" or "a family of people."

(See also: descendant, descended from, nation, tribe, world, worldly)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[14-02]** God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give the Promised Land to their descendants, but now there were many **people groups** living there. what follows is
- **[21-02]** God promised Abraham that through him all **people groups** of the world would receive a blessing. This blessing would be that the Messiah would come sometime in the future and provide the way of salvation for people from all the **people groups** of the world.
- **[42-08]**"It was also written in the scriptures that my disciples will proclaim that everyone should repent in order to receive forgiveness for their sins. They will do this starting in Jerusalem, and then go to all **people groups** everywhere."
- **[42-10]**"So go, make disciples of all **people groups** by baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and by teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
- **[48-11]** Because of this New Covenant, anyone from any **people group** can become part of God's people by believing in Jesus.
- **[50-03]** He (Jesus) said, "Go and make disciples of all **people groups**!" and, "The fields are ripe for harvest!"

perish, perishing, perishable

Definition:

The term "perish" means to die or be destroyed, usually as the result of violence or other disaster. In the Bible, it especially has the meaning of being punished for eternity in hell.

- People who are "perishing" are those who are destined for hell because they have refused to believe in Jesus for their salvation.
- John 3:16 teaches that "perish" means to not live eternally in heaven.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, ways to translate this term could include, "die eternally" or "be punished in hell" or "be destroyed."
- Make sure that the translation of "perish" can mean living eternally in hell and does not only mean "cease to exist."

(See also: death, die, dead, everlasting, eternal, eternity)

Bible References:

Waiting

Peter, Simon Peter, Cephas

Facts:

Peter was one of Jesus' twelve apostles. He was an important leader of the early Church.

- Before Jesus called him to be his disciple, Peter's name was Simon.
- Later, Jesus also named him "Cephas," which means "stone" or "rock" in the Aramaic language. The name Peter also means "stone" or "rock" in the Greek language.
- God worked through Peter to heal people and to preach the good news about Jesus.
- Two books in the New Testament are letters that Peter wrote to encourage and teach fellow believers.

(Translation suggestions: How to Translate Names)

(See also: disciple, apostle, apostleship)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[28-09] Peter** said to Jesus, "We have left everything and followed you. What will be our reward?"
- **[29-01]** One day **Peter** asked Jesus, "Master, how many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?"
- **[31-05]** Then **Peter** said to Jesus, "Master, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus told **Peter**, "Come!"
- **[36-01]** One day, Jesus took three of his disciples, **Peter**, James, and John with him.
- **[38-09] Peter** replied, "Even if all the others abandon you, I will not!" Then Jesus said to **Peter**, "Satan wants to have all of you, but I have prayed for you, **Peter**, that your faith will not fail. Even so, tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny that you even know me three times."
- **[38-15]** As the soldiers arrested Jesus, **Peter** pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.
- **[43-11] Peter** answered them, "Every one of you should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that God will forgive your sins."
- **[44-08] Peter** answered them, "This man stands before you healed by the power of Jesus the Messiah."

pig, swine, pork

Definition:

A pig is a type of four-legged, hoofed animal that is raised for meat. Its meat is called "pork." The general term for pigs and related animals is "swine."

- God told the Israelites not to eat pig meat and to consider it unclean. Jews today still view pigs as unclean and do not eat pork.
- Pigs are raised on farms to be sold to other people for their meat.
- There is a kind of swine that is not raised on farms but rather lives out in the wild; it is called a "wild boar." Wild boars have tusks and are considered to be very dangerous animals.
- Sometimes large pigs are referred to as "hogs."

(See: How to Translate Unknowns)

(See also: unclean)

Bible References:

Waiting

power, powers

Definition:

The term "power" refers to the ability to do things or make things happen, often using great strength. "Powers" refers to people or spirits who have great ability to cause things to happen.

- The "power of God" refers to God's ability to do everything, especially things that are not possible for people to do.
- God has complete power over everything that he has created.
- God gives his people power to do what he wants, so that when they heal people or do other miracles, they do this by the power of God.
- Because Jesus and the Holy Spirit are also God, they have this same power.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term "power" could also be translated as "ability" or "strength" or "energy" or "ability to do miracles" or "control."
- Possible ways to translate the term "powers" could include, "powerful beings" or "controlling spirits" or "those who control others."
- An expression like "save us from the power of our enemies" could be translated as, "save us from being oppressed by our enemies" or "rescue us from being controlled by our enemies." In this case, "power" has the meaning of using one's strength to control and oppress others.

(See also: Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus,, miracle, wonder, sign,)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[22-05]** The angel explained, "The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the **power** of God will overshadow you. So the baby will be holy, the Son of God."
- **[26-01]** After overcoming Satan's temptations, Jesus returned in the **power** of the Holy Spirit to the region of Galilee where he lived.
- **[32-15]** Immediately Jesus realized that **power** had gone out from him.
- **[42-11]** Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he told his disciples, "Stay in Jerusalem until my Father gives you **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you."
- **[43-06]**"Men of Israel, Jesus was a man who did many mighty signs and wonders by the **power** of God, as you have seen and already know."
- **[44-08]** Peter answered them, "This man stands before you healed by the **power** of Jesus the Messiah."

precious

Facts:

The term "precious" describes people or things that are considered to be very valuable.

- The term "precious stones" or "precious jewels" refers to rocks and minerals that are colorful or have other qualities that make them beautiful or useful.
- Examples of precious stones include diamonds, rubies, and emeralds.
- Gold and silver are called "precious metals."
- Yahweh says that his people are "precious" in his sight (Isaiah 43:4).
- Peter wrote that a gentle and quiet spirit is precious in God's sight (1 Peter 3:4).
- This term could also be translated as, "valuable" or "very dear" or "cherished" or "highly valued."

(See also: gold, silver)

Bible References:

Waiting

profit, profitable

Definition:

In general, the terms "profit" and "profitable" refer to gaining something good through doing certain actions or behaviors.

refers to something good that is gained. Something is "profitable" to someone if it brings them good things or if it helps them bring about good things for other people.

- More specifically, the term "profit" often refers to money that is gained from doing business. A business is "profitable" if it gains more money than it spends.
- Actions are profitable if they bring about good things for people.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture is "profitable" for correcting and training people in righteousness. This means that the Bible's teachings are helpful and useful for teaching people to live according to God's will.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term "profit" could also be translated as "benefit" or "help" or "gain."
- The term "profitable" could be translated as "useful" or "beneficial" or "helpful."
- To "profit from" something could be translated as "benefit from" or "gain money from" or "receive help from."
- In the context of a business, "profit" could be translated with a word or phrase that means, "money gained" or "surplus of money" or "extra money."

Bible References:

Waiting

promise

Definition:

A promise is a pledge to do a certain thing. When someone promises something, it means he is committing to do something.

- The Bible records many promises that God has made for his people.
- Promises are an important part of formal agreements such as covenants.
- A promise is often accompanied by an oath to confirm that it will be done.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "promise" could be translated as, "commitment" or "assurance" or "guarantee."
- To "promise to do something" could be translated as, "assure someone that you will do something" or "commit to doing something."

(See also: covenant, oath, swear, swear by, vow)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[03-15]** God said, "I **promise** I will never again curse the ground because of the evil things people do, or destroy the world by causing a flood, even though people are sinful from the time they are children."?
- **[03-16]** God then made the first rainbow as a sign of his **promise**. Every time the rainbow appeared in the sky, God would remember what he **promised** and so would his people.
- **[04-08]** God spoke to Abram and **promised** again that he would have a son and as many descendants as the stars in the sky. Abram believed God's **promise**.
- **[05-04]**"Your wife, Sarai, will have a son—he will be the son of **promise**."
- **[08-15]** The covenant **promises** that God gave to Abraham were passed on to Isaac, then to Jacob, and then to Jacob's twelve sons and their families.
- **[17-14]** Though David had been unfaithful to God, God was still faithful to his **promises**.
- **[50-01]** Jesus **promised** he would return at the end of the world. Though he has not yet come back, he will keep his **promise**.

prophet, prophecy, prophesy, seer, prophetess

Definition:

A "prophet" is a man who speaks God's messages to people. A woman who does this is called a "prophetess."

- Often prophets warned people to turn away from their sins and obey God.
- A "prophecy" is the message that the prophet speaks. To "prophesy" means to speak God's messages.
- Often the message of a prophecy was about something that would happen in the future.
- Many prophecies in the Old Testament have already been fulfilled.
- In the Bible the collection of books written by prophets are sometimes referred to as "the prophets."
- For example, the phrase, "the law and the prophets" is a way of referring to all the Hebrew scriptures, which are also known as the "Old Testament."
- An older term for a prophet was "seer" or "someone who sees."
- Sometimes the term "seer" refers to a false prophet or to someone who practices divination.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "prophet" could be translated as "God's spokesman" or "man who speaks for God" or "man who speaks God's messages."
- A "seer" could be translated as, "person who sees visions" or "man who sees the future from God."
- The term "prophetess" could be translated as, "spokeswoman for God" or "woman who speaks for God" or "woman who speaks God's messages."
- Ways to translate "prophecy" could include, "message from God" or "prophet message."
- The term "prophesy" could be translated as "speak words from God" or "tell God's message."
- The figurative expression, "law and the prophets" could also be translated as, "the books of the law and of the prophets" or "everything written about God and his people, including God's laws and what his prophets preached." (See: Synecdoche)
- When referring to a prophet (or seer) of a false god, it may be necessary to translate this as "false prophet (seer)" or "prophet (seer) of a false god" or "prophet of Baal," for example.

(See also: Baal, divination, diviner, soothsaying, soothsayer, false god, foreign god, god, goddess, false prophet, fulfill, law, law of Moses, God's law, law of Yahweh, vision)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[12-12]** When the Israelites saw that the Egyptians were dead, they trusted in God and believed that Moses was a **prophet** of God.
- **[17-13]** God was very angry about what David had done, so he sent the **prophet** Nathan to tell David how evil his sin was.
- **[19-01]** Throughout the history of the Israelites, God sent them **prophets**. The **prophets** heard messages from God and then told the people God's messages.
- **[19-06]** All the people of the entire kingdom of Israel, including the 450 **prophets** of Baal, came to Mount Carmel.
- **[19-17]** Most of the time, the people did not obey God. They often mistreated the **prophets** and sometimes even killed them.
- **[21-09]** The **prophet** Isaiah **prophesied** that the Messiah would be born from a virgin.
- **[43-05]**"This fulfills the **prophecy** made by the **prophet** Joel in which God said, 'In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit.'"
- **[43-07]**"This fulfills the **prophecy** which says, 'You will not let your Holy One rot in the grave.'"
- **[48-12]** Moses was a great **prophet** who proclaimed the word of God. But Jesus is the greatest **prophet** of all. He is the Word of God.
-

proverb

Definition:

A proverb is a short statement that expresses some wisdom or truth.

- Proverbs are powerful because they are easy to remember and repeat.
- Often a proverb will include practical examples from everyday life.
- Some proverbs are very clear and direct, while others are more difficult to understand.
- King Solomon was known for his wisdom and wrote over 1,000 proverbs.
- Jesus often used proverbs or parables when he taught people.
- Ways to translate "proverb" could include, "wise saying" or "true word."

(See also: Solomon, true, truth, come true, wise, wisdom)

Bible References:

Waiting

punish, punishment

Definition:

The term "punish" means to cause someone to suffer a negative consequence for doing something wrong. The term "punishment" refers to the negative consequence that is given as a result of that wrong behavior.

- Often punishment is intended to motivate a person to stop sinning.
- God punished the Israelites when they disobeyed him, especially when they worshiped false gods. Because of their sin, God allowed their enemies to attack and capture them.
- God is righteous and just, so he has to punish sin. Every human being has sinned against God and deserves punishment.
- Jesus was punished for all the evil things that every person has ever done. He received each person's punishment on himself even though he did nothing wrong and did not deserve that punishment.
- The expressions "go unpunished" and "leave unpunished" mean to decide not to punish people for their wrongdoing. God often allows sin to go unpunished as he waits for people to repent.

(See also: just, justice, justly, repent, repentance, righteous, righteousness, sin, sinful, sinner, sinning)

Bible References:

Waiting

their

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[13-07]** God also gave many other laws and rules to follow. If the people obeyed these laws, God promised that he would bless and protect them. If they disobeyed them, God would **punish** them.
- **[16-02]** Because the Israelites kept disobeying God, he **punished** them by allowing their enemies to defeat them.
- **[19-16]** The prophets warned the people that if they did not stop doing evil and start obeying God, then God would judge them as guilty, and he would **punish** them.
- **[48-06]** Jesus was the perfect high priest because he took the **punishment** for every sin that anyone has ever committed.
- **[48-10]** When anyone believes in Jesus, the blood of Jesus takes away that person's sin, and God's **punishment** passes over him.
- **[49-09]** But God loved everyone in the world so much that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in Jesus will not be **punished** for his sins, but will live with God forever.

- **[49-11]** Jesus never sinned, but he chose to be **punished** and die as the perfect sacrifice to take away your sins and the sins of every person in the world.

rebuke

Definition:

To rebuke is to give someone a stern verbal correction, often in order to help that person turn away from sin.

- The New Testament commands Christians to rebuke other believers when they are clearly disobeying God.
- The book of Proverbs instructs parents to rebuke their children when they are disobedient.
- A rebuke is typically given to prevent the one who committed the wrong from involving themselves further in sin.
- This could be translated by, "sternly correct" or "admonish."
- The phrase "a rebuke" could be translated by, "a stern correction" or "a strong criticism."
- "Without rebuke" could be translated as, "without admonishing" or "without criticism."

(See also admonish, disobey, disobedient, disobedience)

Bible References:

Waiting

receive

Definition:

The term "receive" generally means to get or accept something that is given, offered, or presented.

- To "receive" can also mean to suffer or experience something, as in "he received punishment for what he did."
- There is also a special sense in which we can "receive" a person. For example, to "receive" guests or visitors means to welcome them and to treat them with honor in order to build a relationship with them.
- To "receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" means we are given the Holy Spirit and welcome him to work in and through our lives.
- To "receive Jesus" means to accept God's offer of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- When a blind person "receives his sight" means that God healed him and enabled him to see.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, "receive" can be translated as "accept" or "welcome" or "experience" or "be given."
- The expression, "you will receive power" could be translated as, "you will be given power" or "God will give you power" or "power will be given to you (by God)" or "God will cause the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in you."
- The phrase "received his sight" could also be translated as, "was able to see" or "became able to see again" or "God healed him so that he was able to see."

(See also: Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus, lord, master, sir, save, safe)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[21-13]** The prophets also said that the Messiah would be perfect, having no sin. He would die to **receive** the punishment for other people's sin. His punishment would bring peace between God and people.
- **[45-05]** As Stephen was dying, he cried out, "Jesus, **receive** my spirit."
- **[49-06]** He (Jesus) taught that some people will receive him and be saved, but others will not.
- **[49-10]** When Jesus died on the cross, he **received** your punishment.
- **[49-13]** God will save everyone who believes in Jesus and **receives** him as their Master.

repent, repentance

Definition:

The terms "repent" and "repentance" refer to turning away from sin and turning back to God.

- To "repent" literally means to "change one's mind."
- In the Bible, "repent" usually means to turn away from a sinful, human way of thinking and acting, and to turn to God's way of thinking and acting.
- When people truly repent of their sins, God forgives them and helps them start obeying him.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term, "repent" can be translated with a word or phrase that means, "turn back (to God)" or "turn away from sin and toward God" or "turn toward God, away from sin."
- Often the term, "repentance" can be translated using the verb "repent." For example, "God has given repentance to Israel" could be translated as, "God has enabled Israel to repent."
- Other ways to translate "repentance" could include "to turn away from sin" or "turning to God and away from sin."

(See also: forgive, forgiveness, sin, sinful, sinner, sinning, turn, turn away, turn back)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[16-02]** After many years of disobeying God and being oppressed by their enemies, the Israelites **repented** and asked God to rescue them.
- **[17-13]** David **repented** of his sin and God forgave him.
- **[19-18]** They (prophets) warned people that God would destroy them if they did not **repent**.
- **[24-02]** Many people came out to the wilderness to listen to John. He preached to them, saying, "**Repent**, for the kingdom of God is near!"
- **[42-08]**""It was also written in the scriptures that my disciples will proclaim that everyone should repent in order to **receive** forgiveness for their sins. "
- **[44-05]**"So now, **repent** and turn to God so that your sins will be washed away."

reveal, revelation

Definition:

The term "reveal" means to cause something to be known. A "revelation" is something that has been made known.

- In the Bible, the term "reveal" is often used to describe how God has made himself known to people.
- God has revealed himself through everything he has created and through his communication with people by spoken and written messages.
- God also reveals himself through dreams or visions.
- When Paul says that he received the gospel by "revelation from Jesus Christ," he means that Jesus himself explained the gospel to him.
- The New Testament book "Revelation" is about God revealing events that will happen in the end times. He revealed this to the apostle John through visions.

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate "reveal" could include, "make known" or "disclose" or "show clearly."
- Depending on the context, possible ways to translate "revelation" could be, "communication from God" or "things that God has revealed" or "teachings about God." It is best to keep the meaning of "reveal" in this word.
- The phrase, "where there is no revelation" could be translated as, "when God does not reveal himself to people" or "when God has not spoken to people" or "among people whom God has not communicated to."

(See also: good news, gospel, good news, gospel, dream, vision)

Bible References:

Waiting

reward

Definition:

The term "reward" refers to what a person receives because of something he has done, either good or bad. "To reward" someone is to give someone something he deserves.

- A reward can be a good or positive thing that a person receives because of doing something well or because he has obeyed God.
- Sometimes a reward can refer to negative things that may result from bad behavior, such as the statement, "the reward of the wicked." In this context, "reward"kk refers to punishment or negative consequences from sinful actions.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term "reward" could be translated as "payment" or "something that is deserved" or "punishment."
- "To reward" someone could be translated by "to repay" or "to punish" or "to give what is deserved."
- Make sure the translation of this term does not refer to wages. A reward is not specifically about earning money as part of a job.

(See also: punish, punishment)

Bible References:

Waiting

righteous, righteousness

Definition:

The terms "righteous" and "righteousness" refer to God's absolute goodness, justice, faithfulness, and love. Because God is righteous, he must condemn sin.

- These terms are also often used to describe a person who obeys God and is morally good. However, because all people have sinned, no one except God is completely righteous.
- Examples of people who the Bible calls "righteous" include Noah, Job, Abraham, Zachariah, and Elisabeth.
- When people trust in Jesus to save them, God cleanses them from their sins and declares them to be righteous based on Jesus' righteousness.

Translation Suggestions:

- When referring to God, the term "righteous" could be translated as "perfectly good and just" or "always acting rightly."
- God's "righteousness" could also be translated as, "perfect faithfulness and goodness."
- When referring to people who are obedient to God, the term "righteous" could also be translated as "morally good" or "just" or "living a God-pleasing life."
- The phrase, "the righteous" could also be translated as, "righteous people" or "God-fearing people."
- Depending on the context, "righteousness" could also be translated with a word or phrase that means, "goodness" or "being perfect before God" or "acting in a right way by obeying God" or "doing perfectly good
- Sometimes "the righteous" is used figuratively and refers to "people who think they are good" or "people who seem to be righteous."

(See also: good, goodness, holy, holiness, evil, wicked, wickedness, just, justice, justly, faithful, faithfulness)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[03-02]** But Noah found favor with God. He was a **righteous** man, living among wicked people.
- **[04-08]** God declared that Abram was **righteous** because he believed in God's promise.
- **[17-02]** David was a humble and **righteous** man who trusted and obeyed God.
- **[23-01]** Joseph, the man Mary was engaged to, was a **righteous** man.
- **[50-10]** Then the **righteous** ones will shine like the sun in the kingdom of God their Father."

salvation

Definition:

The term "salvation" refers to being saved or rescued from evil and danger.

- In the Bible, "salvation" usually refers to the spiritual and eternal deliverance granted by God to those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus.
- The Bible also talks about God saving or delivering his people from their physical enemies.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could also be translated using the word "save" or "rescue" as in, "when God saves people (from being punished for their sins)" or "God will rescue his people (from their enemies)."
- "God is my salvation" could be translated as, "God is the one who saves me."
- "You will draw water from the wells of salvation" could be translated as, "You will be refreshed as with water because God is rescuing you."

(See also: save, safe, Savior)

Bible References:

Waiting

save, safe

Definition:

The term "save" refers to keeping someone from experiencing something bad or harmful. To "be safe" means to be protected from harm or danger.

- In a physical sense, people can be saved or rescued from harm, danger, or death.
- In a spiritual sense, if a person has been "saved," it means that through Jesus' death on the cross, God has forgiven him and rescued him from being punished in hell for his sin.
- People can save or rescue people from danger, but only God can save people from being punished eternally for their sins.

Translation Suggestions:

- Ways to translate "save" could include, "deliver" or "keep from harm" or "take out of harm's way" or "keep from dying."
- In the expression, "whoever would save his life," the term "save" could also be translated as "preserve" or "protect."
- The term "safe" could be translated as "protected from danger" or "in a place where nothing can harm."

(See also: cross, deliver, deliverer, deliverance, punish, punishment, salvation, sin, sinful, sinner, sinning)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[09-08]** Moses tried to **save** his fellow Israelite.
- **[11-02]** God provided a way to **save** the firstborn son of anyone who believed in him.
- **[12-05]** Moses told the Israelites, "Stop being afraid! God will fight for you today and **save** you."
- **[12-13]** The Israelites sang many songs to celebrate their new freedom and to praise God because he **saved** them from the Egyptian army.
- **[16-17]** This pattern repeated many times: the Israelites would sin, God would punish them, they would repent, and God would send a deliverer to **save** them.
- **[44-08]** "You crucified Jesus, but God raised him to life again! You rejected him, but there is no other way to be **saved** except through the power of Jesus!"
- **[47-11]** The jailer trembled as he came to Paul and Silas and asked, "What must I do to be **saved**?" Paul answered, "Believe in Jesus, the Master, and you and your family will be **saved**."

- **[49-12]** Good works cannot **save** you.
- **[49-13]** God will **save** everyone who believes in Jesus and receives him as their Master. But he will not **save** anyone who does not believe in him.

Savior

Facts:

The term "Savior" refers to a person who saves or rescues others from danger. It can also refer to someone who gives strength to others or provides for them.

- In the Old Testament, God is referred to as Israel's Savior because he often rescued them from their enemies, gave them strength, and provided them with what they needed to live.
- In the New Testament, "Savior" is used as a description or title for Jesus Christ because he saves people from being eternally punished for their sin. He also saves them from being controlled by their sin.

Translation Suggestions:

- If possible, "Savior" should be translated with a word that is related to the words "save" and "salvation."
- Ways to translate this term could include, "the One who saves" or "God, who saves" or "who delivers from danger" or "who rescues from enemies" or "Jesus, the one who rescues (people) from sin."

(See also: deliver, Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus, salvation, save, safe)

Bible References:

Waiting

self-control

Definition:

Self-control is the ability to control one's behavior in order to avoid sinning.

- It refers to good behavior, that is, avoiding sinful thoughts, speech, and actions.
- Self-control is a fruit or characteristic that the Holy Spirit gives to Christians.
- A person who is using self-control is able to stop himself from doing something wrong that he may want to do. God is the one who enables a person to have self-control.

(See also: fruit, fruitful, Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord)

Bible References:

Waiting

servant, slave, slavery

Definition:

The word for "servant" can also mean "slave" and refers to a person who works for another person, either by choice or by force. The surrounding text usually makes it clear whether a servant or a slave is being referred to.

- In Bible times, there was less of a difference between a servant and a slave than there is today. Both servants and slaves were an important part of their master's household and many were treated almost like members of the family. Sometimes a servant would choose to become a lifetime servant to his master.
- A slave is a kind of servant who is the property of the person he works for. The person who buys a slave is called his "owner" or "master." Some masters treat their slaves very cruelly, while other masters treat their slaves very well, like a servant who is a valued member of the household.
- In ancient times, some people willingly became slaves to a person they owed money to in order to pay off their debt to that person.
- In the Bible, the phrase "I am your servant" was used as a sign of respect and service to a person of higher rank, such as a king. It does not mean that the person speaking was an actual servant.
- In the Old Testament, God's prophets and other people who worshiped God are often referred to as his "servants."
- In the New Testament, people who obey God through faith in Christ are often called his "servants."
- Christians are also called "slaves to righteousness," which is a metaphor that compares the commitment to obey God to a slave's commitment to obeying his master. (See: Metaphor)

(See also: commit, committed, commitment, enslave, in bondage, household, lord, master, sir, obey, obedient, obedience, righteous, righteousness, serve, service)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[06-01]** When Abraham was very old and his son, Isaac, had grown to be a man, Abraham sent one of his **servants** back to the land where his relatives lived to find a wife for his son, Isaac.
- **[08-04]** The **slave** traders sold Joseph as a **slave** to a wealthy government official.
- **[09-13]** "I (God) will send you (Moses) to Pharaoh so that you can bring the Israelites out of their **slavery** in Egypt."

- **[19-10]** Then Elijah prayed, "O Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, show us today that you are the God of Israel and that I am your **servant**."
- **[29-03]** "Since the **servant** could not pay the debt, the king said, 'Sell this man and his family as **slaves** to make payment on his debt.'"
- **[35-06]** "All my father's **servants** have plenty to eat, and yet here I am starving."
- **[47-04]** The **slave** girl kept yelling as they walked, "These men are servants of the Most High God.
- **[50-04]** Jesus also said, "A **servant** is not greater than his master."

sin, sinful, sinner, sinning

Definition:

The term "sin" refers to actions, thoughts, and words that are against God's will and laws. Sin can also refer to not doing something that God wants us to do.

- Sin includes anything we do that does not obey or please God, even things that other people don't know about.
- Thoughts and actions that disobey God's will are called "sinful."
- Because Adam sinned, all human beings are born with a sinful nature that controls them.
- A "sinner" is someone who sins, so every human being is a sinner.
- Sometimes the word "sinners" was used by religious people like the Pharisees to refer to people who didn't keep the law as well as the Pharisees thought they should.
- The term "sinner" was also used for people who were considered to be worse sinners than other people. For example, this label was given to tax collectors and prostitutes.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "sin" could be translated with a word or phrase that means, "disobedience to God" or "going against God's will" or "evil behavior and thoughts" or "wrongdoing."
- "To sin" could also be translated as "to disobey God" or "to do wrong."
- Depending on the context, "sinful" could be translated as "full of wrongdoing" or "wicked" or "immoral" or "evil" or "rebelling against God."
- Depending on the context, the term "sinner" could be translated with a word or phrase that means, "person who sins" or "person who does wrong things" or "person who disobeys God" or "person who disobeys the law."
- The term "sinners" could be translated by a word or phrase that means, "very sinful people" or "people considered to be very sinful" or "immoral people."
- Ways to translate "tax collectors and sinners" could include, "people who collect money for the government, and other very sinful people" or "very sinful people, including (even) tax collectors."
- In expressions like "slaves to sin" or "ruled by sin," the term "sin" could be translated as "disobedience" or "evil desires and actions."
- Make sure the translation of this term can include sinful behavior and thoughts, even those that other people don't see or know about.
- The term "sin" should be general, and different from the terms for "wickedness" and "evil."

(See also: disobey, disobedient, disobedience, evil, wicked, wickedness, flesh, tax collector)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

* **[03-15]** God said, "I promise I will never again curse the ground because of the evil things people do, or destroy the world by causing a flood, even though people are **sinful** from the time they are children."

* **[13-12]** God was very angry with them because of their **sin** and planned to destroy them.

* **[20-01]** The kingdoms of Israel and Judah both **sinned** against God. They broke the covenant that God made with them at Sinai.

* **[21-13]** The prophets also said that the Messiah would be perfect, having no **sin**. He would die to receive the punishment for other people's **sin**.

* **[35-01]** One day, Jesus was teaching many tax collectors and other **sinners** who had gathered to hear him.

* **[38-05]** Then Jesus took a cup and said, "Drink this. It is my blood of the New Covenant that is poured out for the forgiveness of **sins**.

* **[43-11]** Peter answered them, "Every one of you should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that God will forgive your **sins**."

* **[48-08]** We all deserve to die for our **sins**!

* **[49-17]** Even though you are a Christian, you will still be tempted to **sin**. But God is faithful and says that if you confess your **sins**, he will forgive you. He will give you strength to fight against **sin**.

sleep, asleep, fall asleep

Definition:

These terms have figurative meanings relating to death.

- To "sleep" or "be asleep" can be a metaphor meaning to "be dead." (See: Metaphor)
- The expression "fall asleep" refers to the moment when someone starts sleeping, or in its figurative sense, the moment when someone dies.
- To "sleep with the fathers" means to be dead, as one's ancestors are.

Translation Suggestions:

- In some contexts, the term "to sleep" or "to be asleep" could be translated as "to be dead."
- To "fall asleep" could be translated as "to suddenly be asleep" or "to start sleeping" or "to die," depending on its meaning.
- note: It is especially important to keep the figurative expression in contexts where the audience did not understand the meaning. For example, when Jesus told his disciples that Lazarus was "sleeping" they thought he meant that Lazarus was just sleeping naturally. In this context, it would not make sense to translate this as "he died."
- Some languages may have a different expression for death or dying which could be used if the expression "sleep" or "asleep" does not make sense in the project language.

Bible References:

Waiting

Sodom

Definition:

Sodom was a city in the southern part of Canaan where Abraham's nephew Lot lived with his wife and children.

- The land of the region surrounding Sodom was very well-watered and fertile, so that is where Lot chose to live when he first settled in Caanan.
- The exact location of this city is not known because Sodom and the nearby city of Gomorrah were completely destroyed by God as punishment for the evil things the people there were doing.
- The most significant sin that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were practicing was homosexuality.

(See also: Canaan, Canaanite, Gomorrah)

Bible References:

Waiting

Son of God, the Son, Son

Facts:

The term "Son of God" refers to Jesus, the Word of God who came into the world as a human being. He is also often referred to as "the Son."

- The Son of God has the same nature as God the Father, and is fully God.
- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all of one essence.
- Unlike human sons, the Son of God has always existed.
- In the beginning, the Son of God was active in creating the world, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Because Jesus is God's Son, he loves and obeys his Father, and his Father loves him.

Translation Suggestions:

- For the term, "Son of God," it is best to translate "Son" with the same word the language would naturally use to refer to a human son.
- Make sure the word used to translate "son" fits with the word used to translate "father" and that these words are the most natural ones used to express a true father-son relationship in the project language.
- Using capital letters to begin "Son" will help show that this is talking about God.
- The phrase "the Son" is a shortened form of "the Son of God", especially when in the same context as "the Father."

(Translation suggestions: How to Translate Names)

(See also: Christ, Messiah, ancestor, father, forefather, God, God the Father, heavenly Father, Father, Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, [en:obe:kt:jesus]], son, son of, sons of God))

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[22-05]** The angel explained, "The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of God will overshadow you. So the baby will be holy, the **Son of God**."
- **[24-09]** God had told John, "The Holy Spirit will come down and rest on someone you baptize. That person is **the Son of God**."?
- **[31-08]** The disciples were amazed. They worshiped Jesus, saying to him, "Truly, you are **the Son of God**."
- **[37-05]** Martha answered, "Yes, Master! I believe you are the Messiah, the **Son of God**."

- **[42-10]** So go, make disciples of all people groups by baptizing them in the name of the Father, **the Son**, and the Holy Spirit, and by teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”
- **[46-06]** Right away, Saul began preaching to the Jews in Damascus, saying, ”Jesus is the **Son of God**!”
- **[49-09]** But God loved everyone in the world so much that he gave his only **Son** so that whoever believes in Jesus will not be punished for his sins, but will live with God forever.

soul

Definition:

The soul is the inner, invisible, and eternal part of a person. It refers to the non-physical part of a person.

- The terms "soul" and "spirit" may be two different concepts, or they may be two terms that refer to the same concept.
- When a person dies, his soul leaves his body.
- The word "soul" is sometimes used figuratively to refer to the whole person. For example, "the soul who sins" means, "the person who sins" and "my soul is tired" means,"I am tired."

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "soul" could also be translated as "inner self" or "inner person."
- In some contexts, "my soul" could be translated as, "I" or "me."
- Usually the phrase "the soul" can be translated as "the person" or "he" or "him," depending on the context.
- Some languages might only have one word for translating the terms "soul" and "spirit."
- In Hebrews 4:12, the figurative phrase, "dividing soul and spirit" could mean, "deeply discerning or exposing the inner person."

(See also: spirit, spiritual)

Bible References:

Waiting

spirit, spiritual

Definition:

The term "spirit" refers to the non-physical part of people which cannot be seen. When a person dies, his spirit leaves his body. "Spirit" can also refer to an attitude or emotional state.

- The term "spirit" can refer to a being that does not have a physical body, especially an evil spirit.
- A person's spirit is the part of him that can know God and believe in him.
- In general, the term "spiritual" describes anything in the non-physical world.
- In the Bible, it especially refers to anything that relates to God, specifically to the Holy Spirit.
- For example, "spiritual food" refers to God's teachings that give nourishment to a person's spirit, "spiritual wisdom" refers to the knowledge and righteous behavior that come from the power of the Holy Spirit.
- God is a spirit and he created other spirit beings who do not have physical bodies.
- Angels are spirit beings, including those who rebelled against God and became evil spirits.
- The term "spirit of" can also mean "having the characteristics of," such as in, "spirit of wisdom" or "in the spirit of Elijah."
- Examples of "spirit" as an attitude or emotion would include "spirit of fear" or "spirit of jealousy."

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, some ways to translate "spirit" might include, "non-physical being" or "inside part" or "inner being."
- In some contexts, the term "spirit" could be translated as "evil spirit" or "evil spirit being."
- Sometimes the term "spirit" is used to express the feelings of a person as in, "my spirit was grieved in my inmost being." This could also be translated as, "I felt grieved in my spirit" or "I felt deeply grieved."
- The phrase "spirit of" could be translated as, "character of" or "influence of" or "attitude of" or "thinking (that is) characterized by."
- Depending on the context, "spiritual" could be translated as, "non-physical" or "from the Holy Spirit" or "God's" or "part of the non-physical world."
- The figurative expression "spiritual milk" could also be translated as, "basic teachings from God" or "God's teachings that nourish the spirit (like milk does)."
- The phrase "spiritual maturity" could be translated as "godly behavior that shows obedience to the Holy Spirit."
- A "spiritual gift" could be translated as, "special ability that the Holy Spirit gives."

(See also: angel, archangel, demon, evil spirit, unclean spirit, Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, soul)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[13-03]** Three days later, after the people had prepared themselves **spiritually**, God came down on top of Mount Sinai with thunder, lightning, smoke, and a loud trumpet blast.
- **[40-07]** Then Jesus cried out, "It is finished! Father, I give my **spirit** into your hands." Then he bowed his head and gave up his **spirit**.
- **[45-05]** As Stephen was dying, he cried out, "Jesus, receive my **spirit**."
- **[48-07]** All the people groups are blessed through him, because everyone who believes in Jesus is saved from sin, and becomes a **spiritual** descendant of Abraham.

strength, strengthen

Facts:

The term "strength" refers to the state of being strong physically, emotionally, or spiritually. To "strengthen" means to make someone or something stronger.

- "Strength" can also refer to being able to stand up against some kind of opposing force.
- A person has strength of will if he is able to not give in to temptation.
- One writer of the Psalms calls Yahweh his strength, which means that God helps him to be strong.
- If a physical structure like a wall or building is "strengthened," it means that people are rebuilding the structure, to reinforce it with more stones or brick so that it can withstand an attack.

Translation Suggestions

- In general, the term "strengthen" can be translated as "cause to be strong" or "make more powerful."
- In a spiritual sense, the phrase, "strengthen your brothers" could also be translated as "encourage your brothers" or "help your brothers to persevere."
- The following expressions are examples of how this term is used, along with their meanings, which are also alternate ways they can be translated:

  - "puts strength on me like a belt" means, "causes me to be completely strong, like a belt that completely surrounds my waist."
  - "in quietness and trust will be your strength" means, "acting calmly and trusting in God will make you spiritually strong."
  - "will renew their strength" means, "will become stronger again."
  - "by my strength and by my wisdom I acted" means, "I have done all this because I am so strong and wise."
  - "strengthen the wall" means, "reinforce the wall" or "rebuild the wall."
  - "I will strengthen you" means, "I will cause you to be strong"
  - "in Yahweh alone are salvation and strength" means, "Yahweh is the only one who saves us and strengthens us."
  - "the rock of your strength" means, "the faithful one who makes you strong"
  - "with the saving strength of his right hand" means, "he strongly rescues you from trouble like someone who holds you safely with his strong hand."
  - "of little strength" means, "not very strong" or "weak."
  - "with all my strength" means, "using my best efforts" or "strongly and completely."

(See also: faithful, faithfulness, persevere, perseverance, right hand, salvation)

Bible References:

Waiting

stumble

Definition:

The term "stumble" means to "almost fall" when walking or running. Usually it involves tripping over something.

- Figuratively, "to stumble" can mean "to sin" or "to falter" in believing.
- This term can also refer to faltering or showing weakness when fighting a battle or when being persecuted or punished.

Translation Suggestions

- In contexts where the term "stumble" means to physically trip over something, it should be translated with a term that means "almost fall" or "trip over."
- This literal meaning could also be used in a figurative context, if it communicates the correct meaning in that context.
- For figurative uses where the literal meaning would not make sense in the project language, "stumble" could be translated as, "sin" or "falter" or "stop believing" or "become weak," depending sin, sinful, sinner, sinningon the context.
- Another way to translate this term could be, "stumble by sinning" or "stumble by not believing."
- The phrase "made to stumble" could be translated as "caused to become weak" or "caused to falter."

(See also: believe, believe in, belief, persecute, persecution, sin, sinful, sinner, sinning, stumbling block, stone of stumbling)

Bible References:

Waiting

teach, teaching, teacher, taught

Definition:

The terms "teach" and "teaching" refer to telling other people information they didn't know before. Usually the information is given in a formal or systematic way.

- A "teacher" is someone who teaches. The past action of "teach" is "taught."
- When Jesus was teaching, he was explaining things about God and his kingdom.
- Jesus' disciples called him "Teacher" as a respectful form of address for someone who taught people about God.
- The information that is being taught can be shown or spoken.
- The term "doctrine" refers to a set of teachings from God about himself as well as God's instructions about how to live. This could also be translated as "teachings from God" or "what God teaches us."
- The phrase "what you have been taught" could also be translated as, "what these people have taught you" or "what God has taught you," depending on the context.
- Other ways to translate "teach" could include "tell" or "explain" or "instruct."
- Often this term can be translated as "teaching people about God."

(See also: instruct, instruction, teacher, Teacher, word of God, word of Yahweh, word of the Lord, scripture)

Bible References:

Waiting

tent

Definition:

A tent is a portable shelter made of sturdy fabric that is draped over a structure of poles and attached to them.

- Tents can be small, with just enough space for a few people to sleep in, or they can be very large, with space for an entire family to sleep, cook, and live in.
- For many people, tents are used as permanent dwelling places. For example, during most of the time that Abraham's family lived in the land of Canaan, they dwelled in large tents made of sturdy cloth made of goat hair.
- The Israelites also lived in tents during their forty-year wanderings through the desert of Sinai.
- The tabernacle building was a kind of very large tent, with thick walls made of cloth curtains.
- When the apostle Paul traveled to different cities to share the gospel, he made tents to earn money to support himself.
- The term "tents" is sometimes used figuratively to refer generally to where people live. This could also be translated as "homes" or "dwellings" or "houses." (See: Synecdoche)

(See also: Abraham, Abram, Canaan, Canaanite, curtain, Paul, Saul, Sinai, Mount Sinai, tabernacle, tent of meeting)

Bible References:

Waiting

thief, thieves, robber

Facts:

The terms "thief" and "thieves" refer in general to people who steal money or property from other people. The term "robber" often refers to a thief who also physically harms or threatens the people he is stealing from.

- Jesus told a parable about a Samaritan man who took care of a man who had been attacked by robbers. The robbers had beaten the man and wounded him before stealing his money and clothing.
- Both thieves and robbers come suddenly to steal, when people are not expecting it. Often they use the cover of darkness to hide what they are doing.
- In a figurative sense, the New Testament describes Satan as a thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. This means that Satan's plan is to try to get God's people to stop obeying him, stealing from them the good things God has planned for them to experience.
- Jesus compared the suddenness of his return to the suddenness of a thief coming to steal from people. Just as a thief comes at a time when people are not expecting it, so Jesus will return at a time when people do not expect it.

(See also: bless, blessed, blessing, crime, criminal, crucify, darkness,destroyer, power, powers, Samaria, Samaritan, Satan, devil, evil one)

Bible References:

Waiting

torment

Facts:

The term "torment" refers to terrible suffering. To torment someone means to cause someone to suffer, often in a cruel way.

- Sometimes the term "torment" refers to physical pain and suffering. For example, the book of Revelation describes physical torment that worshipers of the "beast" will suffer in the end times.
- Suffering also may take the form of spiritual and emotional pain as experienced by Job.
- According to the book of Revelation, people who do not believe in Jesus as their Savior will experience eternal torment in the lake of fire.
- This term could be translated as, "terrible suffering" or "cause someone to suffer greatly" or "agony." Some translators may add "physical" or "spiritual" to make the meaning clear.

(See also: beast, everlasting, eternal, eternity, Job, Savior, spirit, spiritual, suffer, suffering, worship)

Bible References:

Waiting

transgress, transgression

Definition:

The terms "transgress" and "transgression" refer to breaking a command, rule, or moral code.

- Figuratively, "transgression" can also be described as "crossing a line," that is, going beyond a limit or boundary that has been set for the good of the person and others.
- The terms "transgression", "sin", "iniquity", and "trespass" all include the meaning of acting against God's will and disobeying his commands.

Translation Suggestions:

- "To trangress" could be translated as "to sin" or "to disobey" or "to rebel."
- If a verse or passage uses two terms that mean "sin" or "transgress" or "trespass," it is important, if possible, to use different ways to translate these terms. When the Bible uses two or more terms with similar meanings in the same context, usually its purpose is to emphasize what is being said or to show its importance. (See: parallelism)

(See: sin, sinful, sinner, sinning, trespass, iniquity)

Bible References:

Waiting

trial

Definition:

The term "trial" refers to a situation in which something or someone is "tried" or tested.

- A trial can be a judicial hearing in which evidence is given to prove whether a person is innocent or guilty of wrongdoing.
- The term "trial" can also refer to difficult circumstances that a person goes through as God tests their faith. Other words for this are "testing" or "temptation."
- Many people in the Bible were tested to see if they would continue to believe and obey God. They went through trials which included being beaten, imprisoned, or even killed because of their faith.

(See also: tempt, temptation, test, innocent, guilt, guilty)

Bible References:

Waiting

true, truth, come true

Definition:

The terms "true" and "truth" refer to concepts that are facts, events that actually happened, and statements that were actually said.

- True things are real, genuine, actual, rightful, legitimate, and factual.
- The truth is an understanding, belief, fact, or statement that is true.
- The expression "come true" or "came true" is an expression that means that a prophecy actually happened as it was predicted that it would.
- Truth includes the concept of acting in a way that is reliable and faithful.
- Jesus revealed God's truth in the words that he spoke.
- God's word is truth. It tells about things that actually happened and teaches what is true about God and about everything he has made.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context and what is being described, the term "true" could also be translated by "real" or "factual" or "correct" or "right" or "certain" or "genuine."
- Ways to translate the term "truth" could include, "what is true" or "fact" or "certainty" or "principle."
- The expression "come true" could also be translated as, "actually happen" or "be fulfilled" or "happen as predicted."
- The expression "tell the truth" or "speak the truth" could also be translated as, "say what is true" or "tell what really happened" or "say things that are reliable."
- To "accept the truth" could be translated as, "believe what is true about God."
- In an expression such as, "worship God in spirit and in truth," the expression "in truth" could also be translated by, "faithfully obeying what God has taught us."

(See also: believe, believe in, belief, faithful, faithfulness, fulfill, obey, obedient, obedience, prophet, prophecy, prophesy, seer, prophetess, understand, understanding)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[02-04]** The snake responded to the woman, "That is not **true**! You will not die."
- **[14-06]** Immediately Caleb and Joshua, the other two spies, said, "It is **true** that the people of Canaan are tall and strong, but we can certainly defeat them!"
- **[16-01]** The Israelites began to worship the Canaanite gods instead of Yahweh, the **true** God.

- **[31-08]** They worshiped Jesus, saying to him, "**Truly**, you are the Son of God."
- **[39-10]** "I have come to earth to tell the **truth** about God. Everyone who loves the **truth** listens to me." Pilate said, "What is **truth**?"

ungodly, godless, ungodliness, godlessness

Definition:

The terms "ungodly" and "godless" describe people who are in rebellion against God. Living in an evil way, without thought of God is called "ungodliness" or "godlessness."

- The meanings of these words are very similar. However, "godless" and "godlessness" may describe a more extreme condition in which people or nations do not even acknowledge God or his right to rule them.
- God pronounces judgment and wrath on ungodly people, on everyone who rejects him and his ways.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term "ungodly" could be translated as, "displeasing to God" or "immoral" or "disobeying God."
- The terms "godless" and "godlessness" literally mean that the people are "without God" or "having no thought of God" or "acting in a way that does not acknowledge God."
- Other ways to translate "ungodliness" or "godlessness" could be, "wickedness" or "evil" or "rebellion against God".

(See also: godly, godliness, evil, wicked, wickedness)

Bible References:

Waiting

unrighteous, unrighteousness

Definition:

The term "unrighteous" means to be sinful and morally corrupt. "Unrighteousness" refers to sin or the condition of being sinful.

- These terms especially refer to living in a way that disobeys God's teachings and commands.
- Unrighteous people are immoral in their thoughts and actions.
- Sometimes "the unrighteous" refers specifically to people who do not believe in Jesus.

Translation Suggestions:

- This term could simply be translated as "not righteous."
- Depending on the context, other ways to translate this could include, "wicked" or "immoral" or "people who rebel against God" or "sinful."
- The phrase "the unrighteous" could be translated as "unrighteous people."
- The term "unrighteousness" could be translated as "sin" or "evil thoughts and actions" or "wickedness."
- If possible, it is best to translate this in a way that shows its relationship to "righteous, righteousness."

(See also: righteous, righteousness, unjust, unjustly, injustice, sin, sinful, sinner, sinning, unlawful)

Bible References:

Waiting

vain, vanity

Definition:

The term "vain" describes something that is useless or has no purpose. Vain things are empty and worthless.

- The term "vanity" refers to worthlessness or emptiness. It can also refer to pride or arrogance.
- In the Old Testament, idols are described as vain things that cannot deliver or save. They are worthless and have no use or purpose.
- If something was done "in vain," it means that there was no good result from it. The effort or action did not accomplish anything.
- To "believe in vain" means to believe in something that is not true and that gives false hope.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, the term "vain" could be translated as "empty" or "useless" or "hopeless" or "worthless" or "meaningless."
- The phrase "in vain" could be translated as, "without result" or "with no result" or "for no reason" or "with no purpose."
- The term "vanity" could be translated as, "pride" or "nothing worthwhile" or "hopelessness."

(See also: idol, idolatrous, worthy, worth, unworthy, worthless)

Bible References:

Waiting

voice

Definition:

The term "voice" is often used figuratively to refer to speaking or communicating something.

- God is said to use his voice, even though he doesn't have a voice in the same way a human being does.
- This term can be used to refer to the whole person, as in the statement "A voice is heard in the desert saying, 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'" This could be translated as, "A person is heard calling out in the desert...." (See: Synecdoche)
- To "hear someone's voice" could also be translated as "hear someone speaking."
- Sometimes the word "voice" may be used for objects that cannot literally speak, such as when David exclaims in the psalms that the "voice" of the heavens proclaims God's mighty works. This could also be translated as "their splendor shows clearly how great God is."

(See also: call, calling, called, call out, proclaim, proclamation, splendor

Bible References:

Waiting

water, waters

Definition:

In addition to its primary meaning, "water" also often refers to a body of water, such as an ocean, sea, lake, or river.

- The term "waters" refers to bodies of water or many sources of water. It can also be a general reference for a large amount of water.
- A figurative use of "waters" refers to great distress, difficulties, and suffering. For example, God promises that when we "go through the waters" he will be with us.
- The phrase "many waters" emphasizes how great the difficulties are.
- To "water" livestock and other animals means to "provide water for" them. In Bible times, this usually involved drawing water from a well with a bucket and pouring the water into a trough or other container for the animals to drink from.
- In the Old Testament, God is referred to as the spring or fountain of "living waters" for his people. This means he is the source of spiritual power and refreshment.
- In the New Testament, Jesus used the phrase "living water" to refer to the Holy Spirit working in a person to transform and bring new life.

Translation Suggestions:

- The phrase, "draw water" could be translated as, "pull water up from a well with a bucket."
- "Streams of living water will flow from them" could be translated as, "the power and blessings from the Holy Spirit will flow out of them them like streams of water." Instead of "blessings" the term "gifts" or "fruits" or "godly character" could be used.
- When Jesus is talking to the Samaritan woman at the well, the phrase "living water" could be translated as "water that gives life" or "lifegiving water." In this context, the imagery of water must be kept in the translation.
- Depending on the context, the term "waters" or "many waters" could be translated as "great suffering (that surrounds you like water)" or "overwhelming difficulties (like a flood of water)" or "large amounts of water."

(See also: life, live, living, alive, spirit, spiritual, Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, power, powers)

Bible References:

Waiting

wise, wisdom

Definition:

The term "wise" describes someone who understands what is the right and moral thing to do and then does that. "Wisdom" is the understanding and practice of what is true and morally right.

- Being wise includes the ability to make good decisions, especially choosing to do what pleases God.
- In the Bible, the term "worldly wisdom" is a figurative way of referring to what people in this world think is wise, but which is actually foolish.
- People become wise by listening to God and humbly obeying his will.
- A wise person will show the fruits of the Holy Spirit in his life, such as joy, kindness, love and patience.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, other ways to translate "wise" could include, "obedient to God" or "sensible and obedient" or "God-fearing."
- "Wisdom" could be translated by a word or phrase that means, "wise living" or "sensible and obedient living" or "good judgment."
- It is best to translate "wise" and "wisdom" in such a way that they are different terms from other key terms like righteous or obedient.

(See: obey, obedient, obedience, fruit, fruitful)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[02-05]** She also wanted to be **wise**, so she picked some of the fruit and ate it.
- **[18-01]** When Solomon asked for **wisdom**, God was pleased and made him the **wisest** man in the world.
- **[23-09]** Some time later, **wise** men from countries far to the east saw an unusual star in the sky.
- **[45-01]** He (Stephen) had a good reputation and was full of the Holy Spirit and of **wisdom**.

witness, eyewitness

Definition:

The term "witness" refers to a person who has personally experienced something that happened. Usually a witness is also someone who testifies about they know is true. The term "eyewitness" emphasizes that the person was actually there and saw what happened.

- "To witness" something means to see it happen.
- At a trial, a witness "gives witness" or "bears witness." This has the same meaning as "testify."
- Witnesses are expected to tell the truth about what they have seen or heard.
- A witness who does not tell the truth about what happened is called a "false witness." He is said to "give false witness" or to "bear false witness."
- The expression, "be a witness between" means that something or someone will be evidence that a contract has been made. The witness will make sure each person does what he has promised to do.

Translation Suggestions:

- The term "witness" or "eyewitness" could be translated with a word or phrase that means, "person-seeing-it" or "the one who saw it happen" or "those who saw and heard (those things)."
- Something that is "a witness" could be translated as, "guarantee" or "sign of our promise" or "something that testifies that this is true."
- The phrase "you will be my witnesses" could also be translated as, "you will tell other people about me" or "you will teach people the truth that I taught you" or "you will tell people what you have seen me do and heard me teach."
- "To witness to" could be translated as, "to tell what was seen" or "to testify" or "to state what happened."
- "To witness" something could be translated as "to see something" or "to experience something happen."

(See also: guilt, guilty, judge, judgment, true, truth, testimony, testify)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[39-02]** Inside the house, the Jewish leaders put Jesus on trial. They brought many **false witnesses** who lied about him.

- **[39-04]** The high priest tore his clothes in anger and shouted, "We do not need any more **witnesses**. You have heard him say that he is the Son of God. What is your judgment?"
- **[42-08]**"It was also written in the scriptures that my disciples will proclaim that everyone should repent in order to receive forgiveness for their sins. They will do this starting in Jerusalem, and then go to all people groups everywhere. You are **witnesses** of these things."
- **[43-07]**"We are **witnesses** to the fact that God raised Jesus to life again."

word

Definition:

A "word" refers to something that someone has said.

- An example of this would be when the angel told Zechariah, "You did not believe my words," which means, "You did not believe what I said."
- This term almost always refers to an entire message, not just one word.
- Often in the Bible "the word" refers to everything God has said or commanded, as in "the word of God" or "the word of truth."
- Sometimes "word" refers to speech in general, such as "powerful in word and deed" which means "powerful in speech and behavior."
- A very special use of this term is when Jesus is called "the Word."

Translation Suggestions:

- Different ways of translating "word" or "words" include, "teaching" or "message" or "news" or "a saying" or "what was said."
- When it refers to Jesus as "the Word," this term could be translated as "the Message" or "the Saying."

(See also: word of God, God's word, scripture)

Bible References:

Waiting

word of God, word of Yahweh, word of the Lord, scripture

Definition:

In the Bible, the term "word of God" refers to anything that God has communicated to people. This includes spoken and written messages. Jesus is also called "the Word of God."

- The term "scriptures" means "writings." It is only used in the New Testament and refers to the Hebrew scriptures or "Old Testament." These writings were God's message that he had told people to write down so that many years in the future people can still read it.
- The related terms "word of Yahweh" and "word of the Lord" often refer to a specific message from God that was given to a prophet or other person in the Bible.
- Sometimes this term occurs as simply "the word" or "my word" or "your word" (when talking about God's word).
- In the New Testament, Jesus is called "the Word" and "the Word of God." These titles mean that Jesus fully reveals who God is, because he is God himself.

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, other ways to translate this term could include, "the message of Yahweh" or "God's message" or "the teachings from God."
- It may be more natural in some languages to make this term plural and say "God's words" or "the words of Yahweh."
- The expression "the word of Yahweh came" is often used to introduce something that God told his prophets or his people. This could be translated as, "Yahweh spoke this message" or "Yahweh spoke these words."
- The term "scripture" or "scriptures" could be translated as "the writings" or "the written message from God." This term should be translated differently from the translation of the term "word."
- When "word" occurs alone, it could be translated as "message" or "God's word" or "teachings," depending on the context. Also consider the alternate translations suggested above.

(See also: prophet, prophecy, prophesy, word, Yahweh)

Bible References:

Waiting

Examples from the Bible stories:

- **[25-07]** In **God's word** he commands his people, 'Worship only the Lord your God and only serve him.'"
- **[33-06]** So Jesus explained, "The seed is the **word of God**.

- **[42-03]** Then Jesus explained to them what **God's word** says about the Messiah.
- **[42-07]** Jesus said, "I told you that everything written about me in **God's word** must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds so they could understand **God's word**.
- **[45-10]** Philip also used other **scriptures** to tell him the good news of Jesus.
- **[48-12]** But Jesus is the greatest prophet of all. He is the **Word of God**.
- **[49-18]** God tells you to pray, to study his **word**, to worship him with other Christians, and to tell others what he has done for you.

works, deeds, work, acts

Definition:

In the Bible, the terms "works," "deeds," and "acts" are used to refer generally to things that God or people do.

- The term "work" refers to doing labor or anything that is done to serve other people.
- God's "works" and the "work of his hands" are expressions that refer to all the things he does or has done, including creating the world, saving sinners, providing for the needs of all creation and keeping the entire universe in place. The terms "deeds" and "acts" are also used to refer to God's miracles in expressions such as, "mighty acts" or "marvelous deeds."
- The works or deeds that a person does can be either good or evil.
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers to do good works, which are also called "good fruit."
- People are not saved by their good works; they are saved through faith in Jesus.
- A person's "work" can be what he does to earn a living or to serve God. The Bible also refers to God as "working."

Translation Suggestions:

- Other ways to translate "works" or "deeds" could be, "actions" or "things that are done."
- When referring to God's "works" or "deeds" and the "work of his hands," these expressions could also be translated as, "miracles" or "mighty acts" or "amazing things he does."
- The expression, "the work of God" could be translated as, "the things that God is doing" or "the miracles God does" or "the amazing things that God does" or "everything God has accomplished."
- The term "work" can just be the singular of "works" as in, "every good work" or "every good deed."
- The term "work" can also have the broader meaning of "service" or "ministry." For example, the expression, "your work in the Lord" could also be translated as, "what you do for the Lord."
- The expression, "examine your own work" could also be translated as, "make sure what you are doing is God's will" or "make sure that what you are doing pleases God."
- The expression "the work of the Holy Spirit" could be translated as, "the empowering of the Holy Spirit" or "the ministry of the Holy Spirit" or "the things that the Holy Spirit does."

(See: fruit, fruitful, Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, Spirit of the Lord, miracle, wonder, sign)

Bible References:

Waiting

world, worldly

Definition:

The term "world" usually refers to the part of the universe where people live: the earth. The term "worldly" describes the evil values and behaviors of people living in this world.

- In its most general sense, the term "world" refers to the heavens and the earth, as well as everything in them.
- In many contexts, "world" actually means, "people in the world."
- Sometimes it is implied that this refers to the evil people on earth or the people who do not obey God.
- The apostles also used "world" to refer to the selfish behaviors and corrupt values of the people living in this world. This can include self-righteous religious practices which are based on human efforts.
- People and things characterized by these values are said to be "worldly."

Translation Suggestions:

- Depending on the context, "world" could also be translated as, "universe" or "people of this world" or "corrupt things in the world" or "evil attitudes of people in the world."
- The phrase "all the world" often means "many people" and refers to the people living in a certain region. For example, "all the world came to Egypt" could be translated as, "many people from the surrounding countries came to Egypt" or "people from all the countries surrounding Egypt came there."
- Another way to translate "all the world went to their hometown to be registered in the Roman census" would be, "many of the people living in regions ruled by the Roman empire went..."
- Depending on the context, the term "worldly" could be translated as, "evil" or "sinful" or "selfish" or "ungodly" or "corrupt" or "influenced by the corrupt values of people in this world."
- The phrase "saying these things in the world" can be translated as "saying these things to the people of the world."
- In other contexts, "in the world" could also be translated as, "living among the people of the world" or "living among ungodly people."

(See also: corrupt, corruption, heaven, sky, heavens, heavenly,Rome, Roman, ungodly, godless, ungodliness, godlessness)

Bible References:

Waiting

wrong, mistreat, hurt

Definition:

To "wrong" someone means to treat that person unjustly and dishonestly.

- The term "mistreat" means to act badly or roughly toward someone, causing physical or emotional harm to that person.
- The term "hurt" is more general and means "to cause someone harm in some way." It often has the meaning of "physically injure."
- Depending on the context, these terms could also be translated as, "do wrong to" or "treat unjustly" or "cause harm to" or treat in a harmful way" or "injure."

Bible References:

Waiting

translationAcademy

Abstract Nouns

This answers the question: What are abstract nouns and how do I deal with them in my translation?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Parts of Speech*
- *Sentences*

Abstract nouns are nouns that refer to attitudes, qualities, events, situations, or even to relationships among these ideas. These are things that cannot be seen or touched in a physical sense, such as happiness, weight, injury, unity, friendship, health, and reason. This is a translation issue because some languages may express a certain idea with an abstract noun, while others would need a different way to express it. For example, "What is its *weight*?" could be expressed as "How much does it *weigh*?" or "How *heavy* is it?"

Description

Remember that nouns are words that refer to a person, place, thing, or idea. **ABSTRACT NOUNS** are nouns that refer to attitudes, qualities, events, situations, or even to relationships among these ideas. These are things that cannot be seen or touched in a physical sense, such as joy, peace, creation, goodness, contentment, justice, truth, freedom, vengeance, slowness, length, and weight.

Abstract nouns allow us to express thoughts about ideas in fewer words than if we did not have those nouns. For example, we can say, "I believe in the forgiveness of sin." But if English did not have the two abstract nouns "forgiveness" and "sin," then we would have to make a longer sentence to express the same meaning. We would have to say, for example, "I believe that God is willing to forgive people after they have sinned."

Abstract nouns also allow us to refer to a situation without telling more details about it than we want to tell. For example, we can say "I got here late because there was an accident on the highway." "Accident" is an abstract noun. If it does not matter whose accident it was, or what kind of accident it was, then it can be better if I do not have to say these things about it.

Reason this is a translation issue: The Bible that you translate from may use abstract nouns to express certain ideas. Your language might not use abstract nouns for some of those ideas; instead, it might use phrases to express those ideas. Those phrases will have other kinds of words such as adjectives, verbs, or adverbs, that express some of the meaning in the abstract noun.

Examples from the Bible

> from *childhood* you have known the sacred writings (2 Timothy 3:15 ULB)

The abstract noun "childhood" refers to when someone is a child.

But *godliness* with *contentment* is great *gain*. (1 Timothy 6:6 ULB)

The abstract nouns "godliness" and "contentment" refer to being godly and content. The abstract noun "gain" refers to something that benefits or helps someone.

Today *salvation* has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. (Luke 19:9 ULB)

The abstract noun "salvation" here refers to being saved.

The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider *slowness* to be (2 Peter 3:9 ULB)

The abstract noun "slowness" refers how slowly something is done.

He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the *purposes* of the heart. (1 Corinthians 4:5 ULB)

The abstract noun "purposes" refers to the things that people want to do and the reasons they want to do them.

Translation Strategies

If an abstract noun would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here is another option:

1. Reword the sentence with a phrase that expresses the meaning of the abstract noun.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Reword the sentence with a phrase that expresses the meaning of the abstract noun.

- **from *childhood* you have known the sacred writings** (2 Timothy 3:15 ULB)

   ○ "Ever since *you were a child* you have known the sacred writings."

- **But *godliness with contentment* is great *gain*.** (1 Timothy 6:6 ULB)

   ○ "But *being godly* and *content* is very *beneficial*."
   ○ "But we *benefit* greatly when we *are godly* and *content*."
   ○ "But we *benefit* greatly when we *honor and obey God* and when we are *happy with what we have*.

- **Today *salvation* has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham.** (Luke 19:9 ULB)

   ○ "Today the people in this house *have been saved*..."
   ○ "Today God *has saved* the people in this house..."

- **The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider *slowness* to be** (2 Peter 3:9 ULB)

  - "The Lord does not move slowly concerning his promises, as some consider *moving slowly* to be"

- **He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the *purposes* of the heart.** (1 Corinthians 4:5 ULB)

  - "He will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal *the things that people want to do and the reasons they want to do them.*"

Active or Passive

This answers the question: What do active and passive mean, and how do I translate passive sentences?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Sentence Structure*
- *Verbs*

Some languages have both active and passive sentences. In active sentences, the subject does the action. In passive sentences the subject is the one that the action is done to. Here are some examples with their subjects underlined:

- ACTIVE: *My father* built the house in 2010.
- PASSIVE: *The house* was built in 2010.

Translators whose languages do not have passive sentences will need to know how they can translate passive sentences that they find in the Bible. Other translators will need to decide when to use a passive sentence and when not to.

Description

Some languages have both active and passive forms of sentences.

- In the **ACTIVE** form, the subject does the action and is always mentioned.
- In the **PASSIVE** form, the action is done to the subject and the one who does the action is *not always* mentioned.

In the examples of active and passive sentences below, we have underlined the subject.

ACTIVE: *My father* built the house in 2010.
PASSIVE: *The house* was built by my father in 2010.
PASSIVE: *The house* was built in 2010. (This does not tell who did the action.)

All languages have active forms. Some languages have passive forms, and some do not. The passive form is not used for the same reasons in all of the languages that have it.

Purposes for the passive:

- The speaker is talking about the person or thing the action was done to, not about the person who did the action.
- The speaker does not want to tell who did the action.
- The speaker does not know who did the action.

Translation Principles Regarding the Passive

- Translators whose language does not use passive forms will need to find another way to express the idea.
- Translators whose language has passive forms will need to understand why the passive is used in a particular sentence in the Bible and decide whether or not to use a passive form for that purpose in his translation of the sentence.

Examples from the Bible

> And their shooters shot at your soldiers from off the wall, and some of the king's servants *were killed,* and your servant Uriah the Hittite *was killed* too. (2 Samuel 11:24 ULB)

This means that the enemies shooters shot and killed some of the king's servants, including Uriah. The point is what happened to the king's servants and Uriah, not who shot them.

> In the morning when the men of the town got up, the altar of Baal *was broken down* ... (Judges 6:28 ULB)

The men of the town saw what had happened to the altar of Baal, but they did not know who broke it down.

> No stonework *was seen* there. (1 Kings 6:18 ULB)

This means that no one saw stonework there. The point is that no stonework was done there.

Translation Strategies

If you decide that it is better to translate without a passive form, here are some strategies you might consider.

1. Use the same verb in an active sentence and tell who or what did the action.
2. Use the same verb in an active sentence, and do not tell who or what did the action.
3. Use a different verb.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Use the same verb in an active sentence and tell who did the action.

- **A loaf of bread *was given* him every day from the street of the bakers.** (Jeremiah 37:21 ULB)
  - *The king's servants gave* Jeremiah a loaf of bread every day from the street of the bakers.

2. Use the same verb in an active sentence, and do not tell who did the action. Instead use a generic expression like "they," or "people," or "someone."

- **It would be better for him if a millstone *were put* around his neck and he *were thrown* into the sea** (Luke 17:2 ULB)

  - It would be better for him if *they were to put* a millstone around his neck and *throw* him into the sea.
  - It would be better for him if *someone were to put* a heavy stone around his neck and *throw* him into the sea.

3. Use a different verb in an active sentence.

- **A loaf of bread *was given* him every day from the street of the bakers.** (Jeremiah 37:21 ULB)

  - He *received* a loaf of bread every day from the street of the bakers.

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Abstract Nouns*
- *Word Order*

Double Negatives

This answers the question: What are double negatives?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Parts of Speech*
- *Sentences*

A double negative occurs when a clause has two words that express the meaning of "not."

> It is *not* that we do *not* have authority (2 Thessalonians 3:9)

> Be sure of this—wicked people will *not* go *un*punished (Proverbs 11:21)

Double negatives mean very different things in different languages. To translate sentences that have double negatives accurately and clearly, you need to know what a double negative means in the Bible and how to express this idea in your language.

Description

Most languages express the negative near the verb or at the beginning or end of the sentence. Some languages also have prefixes or suffixes that express the negative as in "*un*happy," "*im*possible," and "use*less*." Some languages can also express the negative with pronouns like "none," "nothing," and "no one," with adverbs like "nowhere," and with prepositions like "without."

A double negative occurs when a sentence has two words that express the meaning of "not."

> It is *not* that we do *not* have authority (2 Thessalonians 3:9 ULB)

> And this better confidence did *not* happen *without* the taking of an oath, (Hebrews 7:20 ULB)

> Be sure of this—wicked people will *not* go *un*punished (Proverbs 11:21 ULB)

Reason this is a translation issue

Double negatives mean very different things in different languages.

- In some languages, such as Spanish, a double negative emphasizes the negative. The following Spanish sentence *No ví a nadie* is literally "I did not see no one." It has both the word 'no' next to the verb and 'nadie,' which means "no one." It emphasis the negative, and means "I did not see anyone."
- In some languages a double negative simply means a positive. So "She is not unattractive" means "She is attractive."
- In some language the double negative weakens the adjective. So "She is not unattractive" means "She is a little bit attractive."
- In some languages, such as the languages of the Bible, the double negative often strengthens the adjective. So "She is not unattractive" means "She is very attractive."

To translate sentences with double negatives accurately and clearly in your language, you need to know what a double negative means in the Bible and how to express the same idea in your language.

Examples from the Bible

> so that they may *not* be *un*fruitful. (Titus 3:14 ULB)

This means "so that they will be fruitful."

> All things were made through him and *without* him there was *not* one thing made that has been made. (John 1:3 ULB)

By using a double negative John emphasized that the Son of God created absolutely everything.

Translation Strategies

If double negatives are natural and are used to express the positive in your language, consider using them. Otherwise, you could consider these strategies:

1. If the double negative simply expresses the positive, remove the two negatives.
2. If the double negative emphasizes the positive, remove the two negatives and put in a strengthening word or phrase such as "very" or "surely."

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. If the double negative simply expresses the positive, remove the two negatives.

- **For we do *not* have a high priest who can*not* feel sympathy for our weaknesses** (Hebrews 4:15 ULB)
  - "For we have a hight priest who can feel sympathy for our weaknesses"
- **so that they may *not* be *un*fruitful** (Titus 3:14 ULB)
  - "so that they may be fruitful"

2. If the double negative emphasizes the positive, remove the two negatives and put in a strengthening word or phrase such as "very" or "certainly."

- **Be sure of this—wicked people will *not* go *un*punished** (Proverbs 11:21 ULB)
  - "Be sure of this—wicked people will *certainly* be punished"
- **All things were made through him and *without* him there was *not* one thing made that has been made.** (John 1:3 ULB)

○ "All things were made through him. He made *absolutely* everything that has been made."

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Verbs*

Doublet

This answers the question: What are doublets and how can I translate them?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*

A doublet is a pair of words used together that mean nearly the same nearly thing. In some languages people do not use doublets, or they may use them only in certain situations. Translators may need to find some other way to express the meaning.

> King David was *old* and *advanced in years*. (1 Kings 1:1 ULB)

The underlined words mean the same thing. Together they mean "very old."

Description

We are using the word doublet to refer to two words or very short phrases that mean the same thing and that are used in the same phrase. Often they are joined with the word "and." Often they are used to emphasize or intensify the idea expressed by the two words.

Reason this is a translation issue

In some languages people do not use doublets. Or they may use doublets, but they may do it for a reason that would not fit in a particular verse.

Examples from the Bible

> King David was *old* and *advanced in years*. (1 Kings 1:1 ULB)

This means that he was "very old."

> he attacked two men *more righteous* and *better* than himself (1 Kings 2:32 ULB)

This means that they were "much more righteous" than he was.

> You have decided to prepare *false* and *deceptive* words (Daniel 2:9 ULB)

This means that they had prepared "many false things to say."

> as of a lamb *without blemish* and *without spot*. (1 Peter 1:19 ULB)

This means that he was like a lamb that did not have any blemish–not even one.

Translation Strategies

If a doublet would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using one. If not, consider these strategies.

1. Translate only one of the words.
2. If the doublet is used to intensify the meaning, translate one of the words and add a word that intensifies it such as "very" or "great" or "many."
3. If the doublet is used to intensify or emphasize the meaning, use your culture's way of doing that.

Translation Strategies Applied

1. Translate only one of the words.

- **You have decided to prepare *false* and *deceptive* words** (Daniel 2:9 ULB)

   - "You have decided to prepare *false* things to say."

2. If the doublet is used to intensify the meaning, translate one of the words and add a word that intensifies it such as "very" or "great" or "many."

- **King David was *old* and *advanced in years*.** (1 Kings 1:1 ULB)

   - "King David was *very old.*"

3. If the doublet is used to intensify or emphasize the meaning, use one of your language's ways of doing that.

- **a lamb *without blemish* and *without spot*.** (1 Peter 1:19 ULB) - English can emphasize this with "any" and "at all."

   - "a lamb *without any blemish at all*"

Euphemism

This answers the question: What is a Euphemism?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*

A euphemism is a mild or polite way of referring to something that is unpleasant, embarrassing, or socially unacceptable, such as death or activities usually done in private. Its purpose is to avoid offending the people who hear or read it.

Description

A euphemism is a mild or polite way of referring to something that is unpleasant, embarrassing, or socially unacceptable. Its purpose is to avoid offending the people who hear or read it.

> they found Saul and his sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. (1 Chronicles 10:8 ULB)

This means that Saul and his sons were dead. It is euphemism because the important thing was not that Saul and his sons had fallen but that they were dead. Sometimes people do not like to speak directly about death because it is unpleasant.

Reason this is a translation issue: Readers may think that the writer means only what the words literally say.

Examples from the Bible

> where there was a cave. Saul went inside to relieve himself (1 Samuel 24:3 ULB)

The original hearers would have understood that Saul went into the cave to use it as a toilet, but the writer wanted to avoid offending or distracting them, so he does not say specifically what Saul did or what he left in the cave.

> whether we are awake or asleep (1 Thessalonians 5:10 ULB)

Paul refers to being dead as being "asleep" so that instead of thinking that they will never see their loved ones again in this life, his readers will remember that they will see them again when Jesus establishes his kingdom.

Translation Strategies

If euphemism would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here are other options:

1. Use a euphemism from your own culture.
2. State the information plainly without a euphemism if it would not be offensive.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Use a euphemism from your own culture.

- **where there was a cave. Saul went inside to relieve himself** (1 Samuel 24:3 ULB) - Some languages might use euphemisms like these:

  - "where there was a cave. Saul went into the cave to use it as a toilet"
  - "where there was a cave. Saul went into the cave to dig a hole"
  - "where there was a cave. Saul went into the cave to have some time alone"

2. State the information plainly without a euphemism if it would not be offensive.

- **whether we are awake or asleep** (1 Thessalonians 5:10 ULB)

  - "whether we are alive or dead"

Exclusive "We"

This answers the question: What is exclusive "we"?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Pronouns*

Some languages have more than one form of "we": an inclusive form that means "I and you" and an exclusive form that means "I and someone else but not you." Translators whose language has separate exclusive and inclusive forms for "we" will need to understand what the speaker meant so they can decide which form of "we" to use.

Description

Some languages have more than one form of "we": an **inclusive** form that means "I and you" and an **exclusive** form that means "I and someone else but *not you.*" The exclusive form excludes the person being spoken to. This is also true for "us," "our," "ours," and "ourselves." Some languages have inclusive forms and exclusive forms for each of these.

See the pictures. The people on the right are the people that the speaker is talking to. The yellow

we/us (inclusive)

highlight shows who the inclusive "we" and the exclusive "we" refer to.

we/us (exclusive)

Reason this is a translation issue - The Bible was first written in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages. Like English, these languages do not have separate exclusive and inclusive forms for "we". Translators whose language has separate exclusive and inclusive forms of "we" will need to understand what the speaker meant so they can decide which form of "we" to use.

Examples from the Bible

> Forgive *us our* sins (Luke 11:4 ULB)

God has no sins to forgive; so languages that have exclusive forms of "we" and "us" would use the exclusive forms in this verse.

> *we* have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested to us (1 John 1:2 ULB)

John is telling people who have not seen Jesus what he and the other apostles have seen. So languages that have exclusive forms of "we" and "us" would use the exclusive forms in this verse.

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Inclusive "We"*

Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information

This answers the question: What are assumed knowledge, implicit information, and explicit information?

Assumed knowledge is whatever a speaker assumes his audience knows before he speaks and gives them some kind of information. There are two types information.

- **Explicit information** is what the speaker states directly.
- **Implicit information** is what the speaker does not state directly because he expects his audience to be able to learn it from what he says.

Description

When someone speaks or writes, he has something specific that he wants people to know. He normally states this directly. This is **explicit information**.

The speaker assumes that his audience already knows certain things that they will think about in order to understand this information. Normally he does not tell people these things, although what he says may remind them. This is called **assumed knowledge**.

The speaker does not always directly state everything that he expects his audience to learn from what he says. Information that he expects people to learn from what he says even though he does not state it directly is **implicit information.**

Examples from the Bible

> Then a scribe came to him and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes *have holes,* and the birds of the sky *have nests*, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20 ULB)

Jesus did not say what foxes and birds use holes and nests for, because he assumed that the scribe would have known that foxes sleep in holes in the ground and birds sleep in their nests. This is **assumed knowledge**. Jesus did not directly say here "I am the Son of Man" but, if the scribe did not already know it, then that fact would be **implicit information** that he could learn because Jesus referred to himself that way. Jesus did not state explicitly that he travelled a lot and did not have a house that he slept in every night. That is **implicit information** that the scribe could learn when Jesus said that he had nowhere to lay his head.

> Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the mighty deeds had been done in Tyre and Sidon which were done in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment than for you. (Matthew 11:21, 22 ULB)

Jesus assumed that the people he was speaking to knew that Tyre and Sidon were very wicked, and that the day of judgment is a time when God will judge every person. Jesus also knew that the

people he was talking to believed that they were good and did not need to repent. Jesus did not need to tell them these things. This is all **assumed knowledge**.

An important piece of **implicit information** here is that because the people he was speaking to did not repent, they would be judged more severely than the people of Tyre and Sidon would be judged.

> Why do your disciples violate the traditions of the elders? For *they do not wash their hands when they eat*. (Matthew 15:2 ULB)

One of the traditions of the elders was a ceremony in which people would wash their hands in order to be ritually clean before eating. People thought that in order to be righteous, they had to follow all the traditions of the elders. This was **assumed knowledge** that the Pharisees who were speaking to Jesus expected him to know. They were accusing his disciples of not following the traditions. This is **implicit information** that they wanted him to understand from what they said.

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Making Assumed Knowledge and Implicit Information Explicit*

Hendiadys

This answers the question: What is hendiadys and how can I translate phrases that have it?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*
- *Parts of Speech*

Hendiadys is when a speaker makes a single idea more forceful by connecting two nouns or adjectives with "and" when one of the words actually describes the other.

Description

Hendiadys is when a speaker expresses a single idea by connecting two words with "and" when one of the words actually describes the other.

> his own *kingdom and glory* (1 Thessalonians 2:12 ULB)

Though "kingdom" and "glory" are both nouns, "glory" actually tells what kind of kingdom it is: it is a kingdom of glory or a glorious kingdom.

Reasons this is a translation issue

- Often hendiadys has an abstract noun. Some languages may not have a noun with the same meaning.
- Some languages do not use hendiadys, so people may not understand that one word describes the other.

Examples from the Bible

> for I will give you *words and wisdom* (Luke 21:15 ULB)

"Words" and "wisdom" are nouns, but in this figure of speech "wisdom" describes "words."

> if you are willing and obedient (Isaiah 1:19 ULB)

"Willing" and "obedient" are adjectives, but "willing" describes "obedient."

Translation Strategies

If the hendiadys would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here are other options:

1. Substitute one noun with an adjective that means the same thing.
2. Substitute one noun with a phrase that means the same thing.
3. Substitute one adjective with an adverb that means the same thing.

4. Substitute other parts of speech that mean the same thing and show that one word describes the other.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Substitute one noun with an adjective that means the same thing.

- **for I will give you *words and wisdom*** (Luke 21:15 ULB)

  - ”For I will give you *wise words*”

- **that you should walk in a manner that is worthy of God, who calls you to *his own kingdom and glory*.** (1 Thessalonians 2:12 ULB)

  - ”that you should walk in a manner that is worthy of God, who calls you to *his own glorious kingdom*.”

2. Substitute one noun with a phrase that means the same thing.

- **for I will give you *words and wisdom*** (Luke 21:15 ULB)

  - ”For I will give you *words of wisdom*”

- **that you should walk in a manner that is worthy of God, who calls you to *his own kingdom and glory*.** (1 Thessalonians 2:12 ULB)

  - ”that you should walk in a manner that is worthy of God, who calls you to *his own kingdom of glory*.”

3. Substitute one adjective with an adverb that means the same thing.

- **if you are willing and obedient** (Isaiah 1:19 ULB)

  - “if you are willingly obedient”

4. Substitute other parts of speech that mean the same thing and show that one word describes the other.

- **if you are willing and obedient** (Isaiah 1:19 ULB) - The adjective “obedient” can be substituted with the verb “obey.”

  - “if you obey willingly”

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Doublet*

Hyperbole

This answers the question: What is hyperbole?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*

Hyperbole is a figure of speech in which the speaker shows that something is very important by describing it as larger or greater than it really is. He may greatly exaggerate something in order to show his strong feeling or opinion about it, or he may generalize the situation by using words like "every" or "all" to mean "many."

Description

Hyperbole is a figure of speech in which the speaker shows that something is very important by describing it as larger or greater than it really is. There are two kinds of hyperbole:

1. Exaggeration: This is when a speaker deliberately describes something by an extreme or even unreal statement, usually to show his strong feeling or opinion about it.

> Whoever does not *carry his own cross* and come after me cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:27 ULB) - This is an exaggeration. It means that whoever wants to be Jesus' disciple must be determined to follow him faithfully, even if his enemies were to kill that person.

2. Generalization: This is when a speaker uses words like "every" or "all" to mean something like "very many," but not "*every* one." (Some people may not call generalization like this "hyperbole.")

> Moses was educated in *all the learning of the Egyptians* (Acts 7:22 ULB) - This is a generalization. It means that he had learned much of what the Egyptians knew and taught.

Reason this is a translation issue

If readers do not understand that a statement is a hyperbole, they may either think that something happened that did not happen, or they may think that the speaker or writer was saying something that is not true.

Examples from the Bible

Examples of Exaggeration

> If your hand causes you to stumble, *cut it off*. It is better for you to enter into life maimed... (Mark 9:43 ULB)

When Jesus said to cut off your hand, he meant that we should do whatever extreme things we need to do in order not to sin. He used this hyperbole to show how extremely important it is to try to stop sinning.

> If anyone comes to me and does not *hate* his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters–yes, and his own life also–he cannot be my disciple. (Luke 14:26 ULB)

Because of many other things that Jesus said, we know that his use of the word "hate" here is hyperbole. He meant that we must not love even our own family members more than we love him. We must love him more than we love ourselves or anyone else.

> The Philistines gathered together to fight against Israel: thirty thousand chariots, six thousand men to drive the chariots, and troops *as numerous as the sand on the seashore*. (1 Samuel 13:5 ULB)

The underlined phrase is an exaggeration. It means that there were many, many soldiers in the Philistine army.

Examples of Generalization

> They found him, and they said to him, "*Everyone* is looking for you." (Mark 1:37 ULB)

The disciples told Jesus that everyone was looking looking for him. They probably did not mean that everyone in the city was looking for him, but that many people were looking for him, or that all of Jesus closest friends there were looking for him.

> But as his anointing teaches you about *all things* and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, remain in him. (1 John 2:27 ULB)

This is a generalization. God's Spirit teaches us about all things that we need to know.

Caution

Do not assume that something is hyperbole just because it seems to be impossible. God does miraculous things.

> ... they saw Jesus *walking on the sea* and coming near the boat ... (John 6:19 ULB)

This is not hyperbole. Jesus really walked on the water. It is a literal statement.

> ... for *all* have sinned and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23 ULB)

The word "all" here is not hyperbole. All humans have sinned. The only human who has never sinned is Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Translation Strategies

If the hyperbole would be natural and people would understand it and not think that it is a lie, consider using it. If not, here is another option.

1. Express the meaning without the hyperbole. For example "all the people" could be translated as "large crowds of people."

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Express the meaning without the hyperbole.

- **If anyone comes to me and does not *hate* his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters–yes, and his own life also–he cannot be my disciple.** (Luke 14:26 ULB)

  - "If anyone comes to me and does not *love me much more than* he loves his own father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters–yes, and his own life also–he cannot be my disciple."

- **The Philistines gathered together to fight against Israel: thirty thousand chariots, six thousand men to drive the chariots, and troops *as numerous as the sand on the seashore.*** (1 Samuel 13:5 ULB)

  - "The Philistines gathered together to fight against Israel: thirty thousand chariots, six thousand men to drive the chariots, and *a great number of troops*."

Idiom

This answers the question: What are idioms and how can I translate them?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*

An idiom is a certain kind of figure of speech, the kind that usually cannot be correctly understood without being told its true meaning. Every language has them. Some English examples are:

- You are pulling my leg (This means, "You are telling me a lie")
- Do not push the envelope (This means, "Do not take a matter to its extreme")
- This house is under water (This means, "The debt owed for this house is greater than its actual value")
- We are painting the town red (This means, "We are going around town tonight celebrating very intensely")

Description

An idiom is a phrase that has a special meaning to the people of the language or culture that uses it. Its meaning may be different from what a person would understand from the meanings of the individual words that form the phrase.

> he resolutely *set his face* to go to Jerusalem. (Luke 9:51 ULB)

The words "set his face" is an idiom that means "decided."

Sometimes people may be able to understand an idiom from another culture, but it might sound like a strange way to express the meaning.

> I am not worthy that you should *enter under my roof*. (Luke 7:6 ULB)

The words "enter under my roof" is an idiom that means "enter my house."

> Let these words go deeply into your ears (Luke 9:44 ULB)

This idiom means "Listen carefully and remember what I say."

Purpose: An idiom is created in a culture probably somewhat by accident when someone describes something in an unusual way. But, when that unusual way communicates the message powerfully and people understand it clearly, other people start to use it.

Reasons this is a translation issue

- People can easily misunderstand idioms in the original languages of the Bible if they do not know the cultures that originally wrote the Bible.
- People can easily misunderstand idioms that are in the source language Bibles if they do not know the cultures that made those translations.

Examples from the Bible

> "Then all Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Look, we are your flesh and bone."
> (1 Chronicles 11:1 ULB)

This means, "We and you belong to the same race, the same family."

> The kings of the earth take their stand together (Psalm 2:2 ULB)

This means, "The kings on earth plan together."

> the one who lifts up my head" (Psalm 3:3 ULB)

This means, "the one who helps me."

Translation Strategies

If the idiom would be clearly understood in your language, consider using it. If not, here are some other options.

1. Translate the meaning plainly without using an idiom.
2. Use a different idiom that people use in your own language that has the same meaning.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Translate the meaning plainly without using an idiom.

- **Then all Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Look, we are your flesh and bone."** (1 Chronicles 11:1 ULB)

   - "...Look, we all belong to the same nation."

- **he resolutely set his face to go to Jerusalem.** (Luke 9:51 ULB)

   - "He started to travel to Jerusalem, determined to reach it."

- **I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof.** (Luke 7:6 ULB)

   - "I am not worthy that you should enter my house."

2. Use an idiom that people use in your own language that has the same meaning.

- **Let these words go deeply into your ears** (Luke 9:44 ULB)

   - "Be all ears when I say these words to you."

- **"My eyes grow dim from grief** (Psalm 6:7ULB)

   - "I am crying my eyes out"

Inclusive "We"

This answers the question: What is inclusive "we"?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Pronouns*

Some languages have more than one form of "we": an **inclusive** form that means "I and you" and an **exclusive** form that means "I and someone else but not you."

Description

Some languages have more than one form of "we": an **inclusive** form that means "I and you" and an **exclusive** form that means "I and someone else but not you." The inclusive form includes the person being spoken to and possibly others. This is also true for "us," "our," "ours," and "ourselves." Some languages have inclusive forms and exclusive forms for each of these.

See the pictures. The people on the right are the people that the speaker is talking to. The yellow highlight shows who the inclusive "we" and the exclusive "we" refer to.

we/us (inclusive)   we/us (exclusive)

Reason this is a translation issue - The Bible was first written in the Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages. Like English, these languages do not have separate exclusive and inclusive forms for "we." Translators whose language has separate exclusive and inclusive forms of "we" will need understand what the speaker meant so they can decide which form of "we" to use.

Examples from the Bible

> … the shepherds said one to each other, "Let *us* now go to Bethlehem, and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to *us*." (Luke 2:15 ULB)

The shepherds were speaking to one another. When they said "us", they were including the people they were speaking to - one another.

> Now it happened on one of those days that Jesus and his disciples entered into a boat, and he said to them, "Let *us* go over to the other side of the lake." Then they set sail. (Luke 8:22 ULB)

When Jesus said "us," he was referring to himself and to the disciples he was speaking to.

Watch the video for computer (see http://youtu.be/PrMC2jdqY0A) or tablet/phone (see http://youtu.be/2K2gFlPMFVk).

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Exclusive "We"*

Exclusive "We"

Irony

This answers the question: What is irony and how can I translate it?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*

Description

Irony is a figure of speech in which a person pretends to say what he really believes, when in fact he is saying what someone else believes, and he does it in a way that shows that other belief is wrong. People do this to emphasize how different something is from what it should be, or how someone else's belief is foolish. It is often humorous.

> Jesus answered them, "People who are in good health do not need a physician, only people who are sick need one. I did not come to call righteous people to repentance, but to call sinners to repentance." (Luke 5:31-32 ULB)

When Jesus spoke of "righteous people," he was not referring to people who were truly righteous. He was speaking to people who wrongly believed that they were righteous and who were criticizing him for welcoming sinners. Jesus implied that they were wrong to think that they were better than others and did not need to repent.

Reason this is a translation issue

- If someone does not realize that a speaker is using irony, he will think that the speaker actually believes what he is saying. He will not realize that the speaker is ridiculing the idea.

Examples from the Bible

> After blindfolding him, they asked him, saying, "*Prophesy! Who is the one who hit you*?" (Luke 22:64ULB)

The fact that the soldiers were beating Jesus shows us that they did not believe that he was a prophet. They knew that other people thought that Jesus was a prophet, and they may have also thought that Jesus himself claimed to be a prophet. When they told him to prophesy, they were using irony. They were mocking him and implying that if he really was a prophet, then he should be able to tell who hit him without seeing them.

> "Present your case," says Yahweh; "present your best arguments for your idols," says the King of Jacob. "Let them bring us their own arguments; have them come forward and declare to us what will happen, so we may know these things well. Have them tell us of earlier predictive declarations, so we can reflect on them and know how they were fulfilled." (Isaiah 41:21-22 ULB)

People worshiped idols as if their idols had any knowledge or power, and Yahweh was angry at them for doing that. So he used irony and challenged their idols to tell what would happen in the future. He knew that the idols could not even speak, but he did this to mock the idols and rebuke the people for worshiping them.

> Can you lead light and darkness to their places of work?
> Can you find the way back to their houses for them?
> *Undoubtedly you know, for you were born then;*
> *"the number of your days is so large!"* (Job 38:20, 21 ULB)

Job thought that he was wise. Yahweh used irony to show Job that he was not so wise. The two underlined phrase above emphasize that Job could not possibly answer God's questions about the creation of light because Job was not born until many many years later.

Translation Strategies

If the irony would be understood correctly in your language, translate it as it is stated. If not, here is another strategy.

1. Translate it in a way that shows that the speaker is saying what someone else believes.
2. Translate the actual, intended meaning of the statement of irony. The actual meaning of the irony is *not* found in the literal words of the speaker, but instead the true meaning is found in the opposite of the literal meaning of the speaker's words.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Translate it in a way that shows that the speaker is saying what someone else believes.

- **After blindfolding him, they asked him, saying, "Prophesy! Who is the one who hit you?"** (Luke 22:64 ULB)

    - "After blindfolding him, they asked him, saying, *"You call yourself a prophet. Then prophesy! Who hit you?"*
    - "After blindfolding him, they said to him, *"Prophesy! If you were really a prophet, you would be able to tell us who hit you."*

- **I did not come to call *righteous people* to repentance, but to call sinners to repentance.** (Luke 5:32 ULB)

    - "I did not come to call *people who think that they are righteous* to repentance, but to call sinners to repentance."

2. Translate the actual, intended meaning of the statement of irony.

- **After blindfolding him, they asked him, saying, "Prophesy! Who is the one who hit you?"** (Luke 22:64 ULB)

○ "After blindfolding him, they said to him, "*You are not a prophet because you cannot even tell us who struck you!*" "

- **"Present your case," says Yahweh; "present your best arguments for your idols," says the King of Jacob. "Let them bring us their own arguments; have them come forward and declare to us what will happen, so we may know these things well. Have them tell us of earlier predictive declarations, so we can reflect on them and know how they were fulfilled."** (Isaiah 41:21-22 ULB)

  ○ " 'Present your case,' says Yahweh; 'present your best arguments for your idols,' says the King of Jacob. Your idols *cannot bring us their own arguments or even come forward to declare to us what will happen.* We cannot hear them because *they cannot speak* to tell us their earlier predictive declarations, so we cannot reflect on them and know how they were fulfilled."

  Can you lead light and darkness to their places of work?
  Can you find the way back to their houses for them?
  Undoubtedly you know, for you were born then;
  the number of your days is so large! (Job 38:20, 21 ULB)

- "Can you lead light and darkness to their places of work? Can you find the way back to their houses for them? *You act like you know how light and darkness were created, as if you were there; as if you are as old as creation*!"

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Litotes*

Metaphor

This answers the question: What is a metaphor and how can I translate a sentence that has one?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*
- *Simile*

Description

A metaphor is the use of words to speak of one thing as if it were a different thing. Sometimes a speaker does this in ways that are very common in the language. At other times, a speaker does this in ways that are less common in the language and that might even be unique.

1. First we will discuss very common metaphors.

The metaphors that are very common in a language are usually not very vivid. They may even be "dead." Examples in English are "table leg," "family tree," and "the price of food is going up." Examples in biblical languages are "hand" to mean "power," "face" to mean "presence," and "clothing" to mean emotions or moral qualities.

Metaphors like these are in constant use in the world's languages, because they serve as convenient ways to organize thought. In general, languages speak of abstract qualities, such as power, presence, emotions, and moral qualities, as if they were objects that can be seen or held, or as if they were body parts, or as if they were events that you can watch happen.

When these metaphors are used in their normal ways, the speaker and audience do not normally even regard them as figurative language. This is why, for example, it would be wrong to translate the English expression, "The price of petrol is going up" into another language in a way that would draw undeserved attention to it, because English speakers do not view it as a vivid expression, that is, as an unusual expression that carries meaning in an unusual manner.

For a description of important patterns of this kind of metaphor, please see Biblical Imagery - Common Patterns and the pages it will direct you to.

2. Next we will discuss the less common metaphors, metaphors that are sometimes even unique in a language.

The speaker usually produces metaphors of this kind in order to emphasize the importance of what he is talking about. For example,

> For you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.
> (Malachi 4:2 ULB)

Here God speaks about his salvation as if it were the sun rising to shine its rays on the people whom he loves. And he speaks of the sun's rays as if they were wings. Also, he speaks of these wings as if they were bringing medicine that would heal his people.

We call this kind of metaphor "live." It is unique in the biblical languages, which means that it is very memorable.

Parts of a Metaphor

When talking about metaphors, it can be helpful to talk about their parts. The thing someone speaks of is called the **topic**. The thing he calls it is the **image**. The way that they are similar is the **point of comparison**.

In the metaphor below, the speaker describes the woman he loves as a rose. The woman (his "love") is the topic and the red rose is the image. Both are beautiful and delicate.

- My love is a red, red rose.

1. Sometimes the **topic** and the **image** are both stated clearly.

> Jesus said to them. "*I am the bread of life*. He who comes to me will not hunger, and he who believes on me will never thirst." (John 6:35 ULB)

Jesus called himself the bread of life. The topic is "I" and the image is "bread." Bread is a food that people ate all the time. Just as people need to eat food in order to have physical life, people need to trust in Jesus in order to have spiritual life.

2. Sometimes only the **image** is stated clearly.

> Produce *fruits* that are worthy of repentance (Luke 3:8 ULB)

The image here is "fruits". The topic is not stated, but it is actions or behavior. Trees can produce good fruit or bad fruit, and people can produce good behavior or bad behavior. Fruits that are worthy of repentance are good behavior that is appropriate for people who have repented.

Purposes of this second kind of metaphor

- One purpose of metaphor is to teach people about something that they do not know (the **topic**) by showing that it is like something that they already know (the **image**).
- Another purpose is to emphasize that something has a particular quality or to show that it has that quality in an extreme way.
- Another purpose is to lead people to feel the same way about one thing as they would feel toward another.

Reasons this is a translation issue

- People may not realize that a word is being used as an image in a metaphor.
- People may not be familiar with the thing that is used as an image.
- If the topic is not stated, people may not know what the topic is.
- People may not know how the topic and the image are alike.

Translation Principles

- Make the meaning of a metaphor as clear to the target audience as it was to the original audience.

- Do not make the meaning of a metaphor more clear to the target audience than it was to the original audience.

Examples from the Bible

> And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the *clay*. You are our *potter*; and we all are the work of your hand. (Isaiah 64:8 ULB)

The example above has two metaphors. The topics are "we" and "you" and the images are "clay and "potter." Just as a potter takes clay and forms a jar or dish out of it, God makes us into what he wants us to be.

> Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of *the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*" The disciples reasoned among themselves and said, "It is because we took no bread." (Matthew 16:6-7 ULB)

Jesus used a metaphor, but his disciples did not realize it. When he said "yeast," they thought he was talking about bread, but "yeast" was the image in his metaphor about the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Since the disciples did not understand what Jesus meant, it would not be good to state clearly here what Jesus meant.

Translation Strategies

If people would understand the metaphor in the same way that the original readers would have understood it, go ahead and use it. If not, here are some other strategies.

1. If the metaphor is common and seems to be a normal way to say something in the biblical language, express the main idea in the simplest way preferred by your language.
2. If the target audience would think that the phrase should be understood literally, change the metaphor to a simile. Some languages do this by adding words such as "like" or "as."
3. If the target audience would not know the **image**, see Translate Unknowns for ideas on how to translate that image.
4. If the target audience would not use that **image** for that meaning, use an image from your own culture instead. Be sure that it is an image that could have been possible in Bible times.
5. Or, if the target audience would not use that **image** for that meaning, simply state the truth that the metaphor was used to communicate.
6. If the target audience would not know what the **topic** is, then state the topic clearly. (However, do not do this if the original audience did not know what the topic was.)
7. If the target audience would not know how the topic is like the image, state it clearly.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. If the metaphor is common and seems to be a normal way to say something in the biblical language, express the main idea in the simplest way preferred by your language.

- **For after David had in his own generation served the desires of God, *he fell asleep*, was laid with his fathers, and saw decay,** (Acts 13:36 ULB)

  - "For after David had in his own generation served the desires of God, *he died*, was laid with his fathers, and saw decay,"

2. If the target audience would think that the phrase should be understood literally, change the metaphor to a simile. Some languages do this by adding "like" or "as."

- **And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the *clay*. You are our *potter*; and we all are the work of your hand.** (Isaiah 64:8 ULB)

  - "And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are *like* clay. You are *like* a potter; and we all are the work of your hand."

3. If the target audience would not know the **image**, see Translate Unknowns for ideas on how to translate that image.

- **Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you *to kick a goad*.** (Acts 26:14 ULB)

  - "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against a pointed stick."

4. If the target audience would not use that **image** for that meaning, use an image from your own culture instead. Be sure that it is an image that could have been possible in Bible times.

- **And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the *clay*. You are our *potter*; and we all are the work of your hand.** (Isaiah 64:8 ULB)

  - "And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the *wood*. You are our *carver*; and we all are the work of your hand."
  - "And yet, Yahweh, you are our father; we are the *string*. You are the *weaver*; and we all are the work of your hand."

5. Or, if the target audience would not use that **image** for that meaning, simply state the truth that the metaphor was used to communicate.

- **I will make you become *fishers of men*.** (Mark 1:17 ULB)

  - "I will make you become *people who gather men*."
  - "Now you gather fish. I will make you *gather people*."

6. If the target audience would not know what the **topic** is, then state the topic clearly. (However, do not do this if the original audience did not know what the topic was.)

- **Yahweh lives; may *my rock* be praised. May the God of my salvation be exalted.** (Psalm 18:46 ULB)

  - "Yahweh lives; *He is my rock*. May he be praised. May the God of my salvation be exalted.

7. If the target audience would not know how the topic is like the image, state it clearly.

- **Yahweh lives; may *my rock* be praised. May the God of my salvation be exalted.** (Psalm 18:46 ULB)

  - ”Yahweh lives; may he be praised because like a huge rock, *he shields me from my enemies.* May the God of my salvation be exalted.”

- **Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you *to kick a goad*.** (Acts 26:14 ULB)

  - ”Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? You *fight against me and hurt yourself* like an ox that kicks against its owner’s pointed stick.”

To learn more about common metaphors read:

- Biblical Imagery - Common Patterns

Metonymy

This answers the question: What is a metonymy?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*

Many times the Bible uses metonymy. If you do not recognize it as a metonymy you will not understand the passage or worse yet, get the wrong understanding of the passage.

Description

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which a thing or idea is called not by its own name, but by the name of something closely associated with it. A **metonym** is a word or phrase used as a substitute for something it is associated with.

> and *the blood* of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7 ULB)

The blood represents Christ's death.

> He took the cup in the same way after supper, saying, "*This cup* is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. (Luke 22:20 ULB)

The cup represents the wine that is in the cup.

Metonymy can be used

- as a shorter way of referring to something
- to make an abstract idea more meaningful by referring to it with the name of a concrete object associated with it.

Reason this is a translation issue

- If a metonym is used, people need to be able to understand what it represents.

Examples from the Bible

> The Lord God will give him *the throne* of his father, David. (Luke 1:32 ULB)

A throne represents the authority of a king. Throne is a metonym for "kingly authority," "kingship" or, "reign." This means that God would make him become the king who was to follow King David.

> Immediately his mouth was opened (Luke 1:64 ULB)

The mouth here represents the power to speak. This means that he was able to talk again.

who warned you to flee from *the wrath* that is coming? (Luke 3:7 ULB)

The word "wrath" or "anger" is a metonym for "punishment." God was extremely angry with the people and, as a result, he would punish them.

Translation Strategies

If people would easily understand the metonym, consider using it. Otherwise, here is an option.

1. Use the metonym along with the name of the thing it represents.
2. Use the name of the thing the metonym represents.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Use the metonym along with the name of the thing it represents.

- **He took the cup in the same way after supper, saying, "*This cup* is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.** (Luke 22:20 ULB)

  - "He took the cup in the same way after supper, saying, "*The wine in this cup* is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

2. Use the name of the thing the metonym represents.

- **The Lord God will give him *the throne* of his father, David.** (Luke 1:32 ULB)

  - "The Lord God will give him *the kingly authority* of his father, David."
  - "The Lord God will *make him king* like his ancestor, King David."

- **who warned you to flee from *the wrath* to come?** (Luke 3:7 ULB)

  - "who warned you to flee from God's coming *punishment*?"

To learn about some common metonymies, we suggest you read:

- Biblical Imagery - Common Metonymies

Nominal Adjectives

This answers the question: How do I translate adjectives that act like nouns?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Parts of Speech*

Many times in the Bible adjectives are used as nouns to describe a group of people.

Description

In some languages an adjective can be used to refer to a class of things that the adjective describes. When it does, it acts like a noun. For example, the word "rich" is an adjective. Here are two sentences that show that "rich" is an adjective.

> *The rich man* had huge numbers of flocks and herds, (2 Samuel 12:2 ULB)

The adjective "rich" comes before the word "man" and describes "man."

> *He will not be rich*; his wealth will not last; (Job 15:29 ULB)

The adjective "rich" comes after the verb "be" and describes "He."

> ...*the rich* must not give more than the half shekel, and *the poor* must not give less. (Exodus 30:15 ULB)

In Exodus 30:15, the word "rich" acts as a noun in the phrase "the rich," and it refers to rich people. The word "poor" also acts as a noun and refers to poor people.

Reason this is a translation issue

- Some languages do not use adjectives this way.
- Readers may think that the text is talking about one particular person when it is really talking about many people whom the adjective describes.

Examples from the Bible

> The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of *the righteous*. (Psalms 125:3 ULB)

"The righteous" here are people who are righteous, not one particular righteous person.

> Blessed are *the meek* (Matthew 5:5 ULB)

"The meek" here are people who are meek, not one particular meek person.

Translation Strategies

If your language uses adjectives as nouns to refer to a class of people, consider using the adjectives this way. If it would sound strange, or if the meaning would be unclear or wrong, here is another option:

1. Use the adjective with a plural form of the noun that the adjective describes.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Use the adjective with a plural form of the noun that the adjective describes.

- **The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of *the righteous*.** (Psalms 125:3 ULB)

  - ”The scepter of wickedness must not rule in the land of *righteous people.*”

- **Blessed are *the meek*** (Matthew 5:5 ULB)

  - ”Blessed are *people who are meek*”

Parallelism

This answers the question: What is parallelism?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*

Description

In **parallism** two phrases or clauses that are similar in structure or idea are used together. There are different kinds of parallelism. Some of them are the following:

1. The second clause or phrase means the same as the first.
2. The second clarifies or strengthens the meaning of the first.
3. The second completes what is said in the first.
4. The second says something that contrasts with the first.

Parallelism is most commonly found in Old Testament poetry, such as in the books of Psalms and Proverbs. It also occurs in Greek in the New Testament, both in the four gospels and in the apostles' letters.

Reason this is a translation issue

Some languages would not use the kind of parallelism in which the two phrases mean the same thing. They would either think it odd that someone said the same thing twice, or they think that the two phrases must have some difference in meaning.

Examples from the Bible

1. The second clause or phrase means the same as the first.

> You make him to rule over the works of your hands;
> you have put all things under his feet (Psalm 8:6 ULB)

Both lines say that God made man the ruler of everything.

2. The second clarifies or strengthens the meaning of the first.

> The eyes of Yahweh are everywhere,
> keeping watch over the evil and the good. (Proverbs 15:3 ULB)

The second line tells more specifically what Yahweh watches.

3. The second completes what is said in the first.

> I lift up my voice to Yahweh,
> and he answers me from his holy hill. (Psalm 3:4 ULB)

The second line tells what Yahweh does in response to what the person does in the first clause.

4. The second says something that contrasts with the first.

> For Yahweh approves of the way of the righteous,
> but the way of the wicked will perish. (Psalm 1:6 ULB)

This contrasts what happens to righteous people with what happens to wicked people.

> A gentle answer turns away wrath,
> but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1 ULB)

This contrasts what happens when someone gives a gentle answer with what happens when someone says something harsh.

Translation Strategies

1. For most kinds of parallelism, it is good to translate both of the clauses or phrases.
2. When the two clauses or phrases mean the same thing, some languages would not translate them both. (See Parallelism with the Same Meaning)

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

(See Parallelism with the Same Meaning)

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Parallelism with the Same Meaning*

Personification

This answers the question: What is personification?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*

Personification is a figure of speech in which someone speaks of something as if it could do things that animals or people can do. People often speak this way because it makes it easier to talk about things that we cannot see, such as wisdom and sin.

> Does not Wisdom call out? (Proverbs 8:1 ULB)

> sin crouches at the door (Genesis 4:7 ULB)

Some languages do not use personification, and some languages use it only in certain situations.

Description

Personification is a figure of speech in which someone speaks of something as if it could do things that animals or people can do. People often do this because it makes it easier to talk about things that we cannot see, such as wisdom, sin, and wind. For example:

> Does not Wisdom call out? (Proverbs 8:1 ULB)

> sin crouches at the door (Genesis 4:7 ULB)

People also do this because it is sometimes easier to talk about relationships between people and other people than about relationships between people and non-human things, such as wealth.

> You cannot serve God and wealth. (Matthew 6:24 ULB)

Reason this is a translation issue

- Some languages do not use personification.
- Some languages use personification only in certain situations.

Examples from the Bible

> You cannot serve God and wealth. (Matthew 6:24 ULB)

Jesus speaks of wealth as if it were a master whom people might serve. Loving money and basing one's decisions on it is like serving it as a slave would serve his master.

> Does not Wisdom call out? Does not Understanding raise her voice? (Proverbs 8:1 ULB)

The author speaks of wisdom and understanding as if they are a woman who calls out to teach people. They are not something hidden, but something obvious that people should pay attention to.

Translation Strategies

If the personification would not be understood clearly, here are some strategies for dealing with it.

1. Add words or phrases to make it clear.
2. Use the words "like" or "as" to show that the sentences is not to be understood literally.
3. Find a way to translate it without the personification.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Add words or phrases to make it clear.

- **sin crouches at the door** (Genesis 4:7 ULB) - God speaks of sin as a wild animal that is waiting for the chance to attack. This shows how dangerous sin is. An additional phrase can be added to make this danger clear.

  ○ "sin is at your door, waiting to attack you"

2. Use the words "like" or "as" to show that the sentences is not to be understood literally.

- **sin crouches at the door** (Genesis 4:7 ULB) - This can be translated with the word "as."

  ○ "sin is about to destroy you, just *as* a wild animal could harm a person."

3. Find a way to translate it without the personification.

- **even the winds and the sea obey him** (Matthew 8:27 ULB) - The men speak of the wind and the sea as if they are able to hear and obey Jesus as people can. This could also be translated without the idea of obedience by speaking of Jesus controlling them.

  ○ "He even controls the winds and the sea."

Note: We have broadened our definition of "personification" to include "zoomorphism" (speaking of other things as if they had animal characteristics) and "anthropomorphism" (speaking of other things as if they had human characteristics).

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Apostrophe*
- *Biblical Imagery - Common Patterns*

Rhetorical Question

This answers the question: What are rhetorical questions and how can I translate them?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*
- *Sentences*

A rhetorical question is a question to which the speaker does not expect an answer because he is not looking for information. Speakers use rhetorical questions to express deep emotion or to encourage hearers to think deeply about something. The Bible contains many rhetorical questions, often to express sarcasm or to rebuke or scold the hearer. Speakers of some languages use rhetorical questions for other reasons as well.

Description

A rhetorical question is a question to which the speaker does not expect an answer because he is not looking for information. Speakers often use rhetorical questions to rebuke or scold people.

> Those who stood by said, *Is this how you insult God's high priest?*" (Acts 23:4 ULB) The people did not ask this question in order to get information. Rather they used it to scold Paul because they did not think he should have spoken as he did to the high priest.

The Bible contains many rhetorical questions. Some of the purposes of these rhetorical questions are to remind people of something that they already know, to express strong emotion, to say something in a strong way, or to introduce something they want to talk about.

Reasons this is a translation issue

- Some readers may think that a question is a request for information.
- Some languages use rhetorical questions only for scolding.
- Some readers might think that the purpose of a question is something other than what it really is.

Examples from the Bible

> Do you not still rule the kingdom of Israel? (1 Kings 21:7 ULB)

Jezebel used the question above to remind King Ahab of something he already knew: he still ruled the kingdom of Israel. She did this in order to rebuke him for being unwilling to take over a poor man's property. She was implying that since he was the king of Israel he should feel free to take the man's property.

> *Will a virgin forget her jewelry, a bride her veils?* Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number! (Jeremiah 2:32 ULB)

God used the question above to remind his people of something they already knew: a women would never forget her jewelry and veils. He then rebuked his people for forgetting him, who is so much greater than those things.

> Why did I not die when I came out from the womb? (Job 3:11 ULB)

Job used the question above to show how sad he was that he did not die as soon as he was born. He wished that he had not lived.

> And why has it happened to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? (Luke 1:43 ULB)

Elizabeth used the question above to show how surprised and happy she was that the mother of her Lord came to her.

> Or what man among you is there who, if his son asks him for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? (Matthew 7:9 ULB)

Jesus used the question above to remind the people of something they already knew: a good father would never give his son something bad to eat.

> Therefore, if you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father from heaven give good things to those who ask him? (Matthew 7:11 ULB)

Jesus used this question to teach the people in an emphatic way that God gives good things to those who ask him.

> What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed which a man took and threw into his garden... (Luke 13:18-19 ULB)

Jesus used the question above to introduce what he was going to talk about. He was going to compare the kingdom of God to something.

Translation Strategies

Be sure you know that you are dealing with a rhetorical question and not an information question. Then be sure you know what the purpose of the rhetorical question is. Is it to encourage or rebuke or shame the hearer? Is it to bring up a new topic? Is it to do something else?

If using the rhetorical question would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider doing so. If not, here are other options:

1. Add the answer after the question.
2. Change the rhetorical question to a statement or exclamation.
3. Change the rhetorical question to a statement, and then follow it with a short question.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Add the answer after the question.

- ***Will a virgin forget her jewelry, a bride her veils?* Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number!** (Jeremiah 2:32 ULB)

  - *Will a virgin forget her jewelry, a bride her veils? Of course not!* Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number!"

- **Or what man among you is there who, if his son asks him for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone?** (Matthew 7:9 ULB)

  - "Or what man among you is there who, if his son asks him for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone? *None of you would do that!*"

2. Change the rhetorical question to a statement or exclamation.

- **What is the kingdom of God like, and what can I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed...** (Luke 13:18-19 ULB)

  - "This is what the kingdom of God is like. It is like a mustard seed..."

- **Is this how you insult God's high priest?** (Acts 23:4 ULB)

  - *You should not insult God's high priest!*"

- ***Why did I not die when I came out from the womb?*** (Job 3:11 ULB)

  - *I wish I had died when I came out from the womb!*"

- **And why has it happened to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?** (Luke 1:43 ULB)

  - "How wonderful it is that the mother of my Lord has come to me!"

3. Change the rhetorical question to a statement, and then follow it with a short question.

- **Do you not still rule the kingdom of Israel?** (1 Kings 21:7 ULB)

  - "You still rule the kingdom of Israel, *don't you*?"

Simile

This answers the question: What is a simile?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*

A simile is a comparison of two things that are not normally thought to be similar. One is said to be "like" the other. It focuses on a particular trait the two items have in common, and it includes the words "like," "as" or "than."

Description

A simile is a comparison of two things that are not normally thought to be similar. It focuses on a particular trait the two items have in common, and it includes the words "like," "as" or "than."

> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were worried and confused, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. (Matthew 9:36 ULB)

Jesus compared the crowds of people to sheep without a shepherd. Sheep grow frightened when they do not have a good shepherd to lead them in safe places. The crowds were like that because they did not have good religious leaders.

> See, I send you out *as sheep in the midst of wolves*, so be as wise *as serpents* and harmless *as doves*. (Matthew 10:16 ULB)

Jesus compared his disciples to sheep and their enemies to wolves. Wolves attack sheep. Jesus' enemies would attack his disciples.

> For the word of God is living and active and sharper *than any two-edged sword.* (Hebrews 4:12 ULB)

God's word is compared to a two-edged sword. A two-edged sword is a weapon that can easily cut through a person's flesh. God's word is very effective in showing what is in a person's heart and thoughts.

Purposes of Simile

- A simile can teach about something that is unknown by showing how it is similar to something that is known.
- A simile can emphasize a particular trait, sometimes in a way that gets people's attention.
- Similes help form a picture in the mind or help the reader experience what he is reading about more fully.

Reasons this is a translation issue

- People may not know how the two items are similar.
- People may not be familiar with the item that something is compared to.

Examples from the Bible

> Suffer hardship with me, *as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.* (2 Timothy 2:3 ULB)

In this simile, Paul compares suffering with what soldiers endure, and he encourages Timothy to follow their example.

> for *as the lightning appears when it flashes from one part of the sky to another part of the sky*, so will the Son of Man be in his day. (Luke 17:24 ULB)

This verse does not tell how the Son of Man will be like the lightening. But from the context we can understand from the verses before it that just as lighting flashes suddenly and everyone can see it, the Son of Man will come suddenly and everyone will be able to see him. No one will have to be told about it.

Translation Strategies

If people would understand the correct meaning of a simile, consider using it. If they would not, here are some strategies you can use:

1. If people do not know how the two items are alike, tell how they are alike. However, do not do this if the meaning was not clear to the original audience.
2. If people are not familiar with the item that something is compared to, use an item from your own culture. Be sure that it is one that could have been used in the cultures of the Bible.
3. Simply describe the item without comparing it to another.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1 If people do not know how the two items are alike, tell how they are alike. However, do not do this if the meaning was not clear to the original audience.

- **See, I send you out *as sheep in the midst of wolves,*** (Matthew 10:16 ULB) - This compares the danger that Jesus' disciples would be in with the danger that sheep are in when they are surrounded by wolves.

  - "See, I send you out among wicked people and you will be in danger from them as sheep are in danger when they are among wolves."

- **For the word of God is living and active and sharper *than any two-edged sword*.** (Hebrews 4:12 ULB)

  - "For the word of God is living and active and *more powerful than a very sharp two-edged sword*"

2. If people are not familiar with the item that something is compared to, use an item from your own culture. Be sure that it is one that could have been used in the cultures of the Bible.

- **See, I send you out *as sheep in the midst of wolves*,** (Matthew 10:16 ULB) - If people do not know what sheep and wolves are, or that wolves kill and eat sheep, you could use some other animal that kills another.

  - ”See, I send you out *as chickens in the midst of wild dogs*,”

- **How often did I long to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, but you did not agree!** (Matthew 23:37 ULB)

  - How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a mother closely watches over her infants, but you refused!

- **If you have faith even as small *as a grain of mustard*,** (Matthew 17:20 ULB)

  - ”If you have faith even as small *as a tiny seed*”

3. Simply describe the item without comparing it to another.

- **See, I send you out *as sheep in the midst of wolves*,** (Matthew 10:16 ULB)

  - “See, I send you out and people will want to harm you.”

- **How often did I long to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, but you did not agree!** (Matthew 23:37 ULB)

  - “How often I wanted to protect you, but you refused!”

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Metaphor*
- *Biblical Imagery - Common Patterns*

Synecdoche

This answers the question: What does the word synecdoche mean?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Figures of Speech*

Synecdoche is when a speaker uses a part of something to refer to the whole or uses the whole to refer to a part.

Description

Synecdoche is when a speaker uses a part of something to refer to the whole or uses the whole to refer to a part.

> *My soul* exalts the Lord. (Luke 1:46 ULB)

Mary was was very happy about what the Lord was doing, so she said "my soul", the part of herself that has emotions, to refer to her whole self.

> *the Pharisees* said to him, "Look, why are they doing something that is not lawful …?" (Mark 2:24 ULB)

The Pharisees who were standing there did not all say the same words at the same time. Instead, it is more likely that one man representing the group said those words.

Reasons this is a translation issue

- Some readers may understand the words literally.
- Some readers may realize that they are not to understand the words literally, but they may not know what the meaning is.

Example from the Bible

> I looked on all the deeds that *my hands* had accomplished (Ecclesiastes 2:11 ULB)

"My hands" is a synecdoche for the whole person, because clearly the legs and the rest of the body and the mind were also involved.

Translation Strategies

If the synecdoche would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider using it. If not, here is another option:

1. State specifically what the synecdoche refers to.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. State specifically what the synecdoche refers to.

- ***My soul* exalts the Lord.** (Luke 1:46 ULB)

    - ”*I* exalt the Lord.”

- ***the Pharisees* said to him** (Mark 2:24 ULB)

    - ”*a representative of the Pharisees* said to him”

- **I looked on all the deeds that *my hands* had accomplished** (Ecclesiastes 2:11 ULB)

    - ”I looked on all the deeds that *I* had accomplished”

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Metonymy*
- *Biblical Imagery - Common Metonymies*

Forms of You

This answers the question: What are the different forms of you?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Forms of 'You' - Singular*
- *Forms of 'You' - Dual/Plural*

Singular, Dual, and Plural

Some languages have more than one word for "you" based on how many people the word "you" refers to. The **singular** form refers to one person, and the **plural** form refers to more than one person. Some languages also have a **dual** form which refers to two people, and some have other forms that refer to three or four people.

Watch the video for Singular, Dual, and Plural "you" for computer (see http://youtu.be/cPtjzJ2Advk) or tablet/phone (see http://youtu.be/AVITfDEk8nc).

Sometimes in the Bible a speaker uses a singular form of "you" even though he is speaking to a crowd.

- Forms of 'You' - Singular to a Crowd

Formal and Informal

Some languages have more than one form of "you" based on the relationship between the speaker and the person he is talking to. People use the **formal** form of "you" when speaking to someone who is older, or has higher authority, or is someone they do not know very well. People use the **informal** form when speaking to someone who is not older, or does not have higher authority, or is a family member or close friend. Watch the video on Formal and Informal 'You' on the computer or on the tablet/phone. For help with translating these, we suggest you read:

- Forms of "You" - Formal or Informal

How to Translate Names

This answers the question: How can I translate names that are new to my culture?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Translate Unknowns*

The Bible has names of many people, groups of people, and places. Some of these names may sound strange and be hard to say. Sometimes readers may not know what a name refers to, and sometimes they may need to understand what a name means. This page will help you see how you can translate these names and how you can help people understand what they need to know about them.

Description

The Bible has names of many people, groups of people, and places. All names in the Bible have meaning. Most of the time, names in the Bible are used simply to identify the people and places they refer to. But sometimes the meaning of a name is especially important.

> It was this *Melchizedek*, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him. (Hebrews 7:1ULB)

Here the writer uses the name "Melchizedek" simply to refer to a man who had that name, and the title "king of Salem" simply to tell us something about Melchizedek.

> His name "Melchizedek" means "king of righteousness," and also "king of Salem," that is, "king of peace. (Hebrews 7:2 ULB)

Here the writer explains the meanings of Melchizedek's name and title.

Reasons this is a translation issue

- Readers may not know some of the names in the Bible. They may not know whether a name refers to a person or place or something else.
- Readers may need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand the passage.
- Some names may have different sounds or combinations of sounds that are not used in your language or are unpleasant to say in your language.
- Some people and places in the Bible have two names. Readers may not realize that two names refer to the same person or place.

Examples from the Bible

> You went over the *Jordan* and came to *Jericho*. The leaders of Jericho fought against you, along with the *Amorites* (Joshua 24:11 ULB)

Readers might not know that "Jordan" is the name of a river, "Jericho" is the name of a city, and "Amorites" is the name of a group of people.

> she said, "Do I really continue to see, even after he has seen me?" Therefore the well was called *Beerlahairoi*; (Genesis 16:13-14 ULB)

Readers may not understand the second sentence if they do not know that "Beerlahairoi" means "Well of the the Living One who sees me."

> She named him *Moses* and said, "Because I drew him from the water." (Exodus 2:11 ULB)

Readers may not understand why she said this if they do not know that the name Moses sounds like the Hebrew words "pull out."

> *Saul* was in agreement with his death (Acts 8:1 ULB)

> It came about in Iconium that *Paul* and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue (Acts 14:1 ULB)

Readers may not know that the names Saul and Paul refer to the same person.

Translation Strategies

1. If readers cannot easily understand from the context what kind of a thing a name refers to, you can add a word to clarify it.
2. If readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, copy the name and tell about its meaning either in the text or in a footnote.
3. Or if readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, and that name is used only once, translate the meaning of the name.
4. If a person or place has two different names, use one name all of the time and write a footnote when the source text uses the name that is used less frequently.
5. Or use whatever name is given in the source text, and add a footnote that explains who or what the name refers to.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. If readers cannot easily understand from the context what kind of a thing a name refers to, you can add a word to clarify it.

- **You went over the *Jordan* and came to *Jericho*. The leaders of Jericho fought against you, along with the *Amorites*** (Joshua 24:11 ULB)
  - "You went over the *Jordan River* and came to the city of Jericho. The leaders of Jericho fought against you, along with *the tribe of the Amorites*"

- **Shortly after, some Pharisees came and said to him, "Go and leave here because *Herod* wants to kill you."** (Luke 13:31 ULB)

○ "Shortly after, some Pharisees came and said to him, "Go and leave here because *King Herod* wants to kill you.""

2. If readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, copy the name and tell about its meaning either in the text or in a footnote.

- **She named him *Moses* and said, "Because I drew him from the water."** (Exodus 2:11 ULB)

  ○ "She named him *Moses, which sounds like 'drawn out,'* and said, "Because I drew him from the water.""

3. Or if readers need to understand the meaning of a name in order to understand what is said about it, and that name is used only once, translate the meaning of the name.

- **she said, "Do I really continue to see, even after he has seen me?" Therefore the well was called *Beerlahairoi*;** (Genesis 16:13-14 ULB)

  ○ "she said, "Do I really continue to see, even after he has seen me?" Therefore the well was called *Well of the One who sees me*; "

4. If a person or place has two different names, use one name most of the time and the other name only when the text talks about that name. Write a footnote when the source text uses the name that is used less frequently.

For example, Paul is called "Saul" before Acts 13 and "Paul" after Acts 13. You could translate his name as "Paul" all of the time, except in Acts 13:9 where it talks about him having both names.

- **a young man named *Saul*** (Acts 7:58 ULB)

  ○ "a young man named *Paul*"[1] The footnote would look like:
    ◇ [1]Most versions say Saul here, but most of the time in the Bible he is called Paul.

- **But *Saul*, who is also called *Paul*, was filled with the Holy Spirit;** (Acts 13:9 ULB)

  ○ "But *Saul*, who is also called *Paul*, was filled with the Holy Spirit;"

5. Or if a person or place has two names, use whatever name is given in the source text, and add a footnote that explains who or what the name refers to.

For example, you could write "Saul" where the source text has "Saul" and "Paul" where the source text has "Paul."

- **a young man named *Saul*** (Acts 7:58 ULB)

  ○ "a young man named *Saul*"

- **But *Saul*, who is also called *Paul*, was filled with the Holy Spirit;** (Acts 13:9 ULB) * "But __Saul__, who is also called __Paul__, was filled with the Holy Spirit;" * **It came about in Iconium that __Paul__ and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue** ([[en:bible:notes:act:14:01|Acts 14:1 ULB)

- ○ ”It came about in Iconium that *Paul*[1] and Barnabas entered together into the synagogue” (Acts 14:1 ULB) The footnote would look like:
    - ◇ [1]This is the man that was called Saul before Acts 13.

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Copy or Borrow Words*

Textual Variants

This answers the question: Why does the ULB have missing or added verses, and should I translate them?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Choosing a Source Text*
- *Original Manuscripts*

Thousands of years ago, people wrote the books of the Bible. Other people then copied them by hand and translated them. Sometimes the copiers added sentences by mistake or because they wanted to explain something. Modern Bibles are translations of the old copies. Some modern Bibles have some of these sentences that were added. In the ULB, these added sentences are usually written in footnotes.

Description

Thousands of years ago, people wrote the books of the Bible. Other people copied them by hand and translated them. They did this work very carefully, and over the years many people made thousands of copies. However people who looked at them later saw that there were small differences between them. Some copiers accidentally left out some words, and some mistook a word for another that looked like it. Occasionally they added words or even whole sentences, either by accident, or because they wanted to explain something.

Bible scholars have read many old copies and compared them with each other. For each place in the Bible where there was a difference, they have figured out which wordings are most likely correct. The translators of the ULB based the ULB on wordings that scholars say are most likely correct. Because people who use the ULB may have access to Bibles that are based on other copies, the ULB translators included footnotes that tell about some of the differences between them.

Translators are encouraged to translate the text in the ULB and to write about added sentences in footnotes, as is done in the ULB. However, if the local church really wants those sentences to be included in the main text, translators may put them in the text and include a footnote about them.

Examples from the Bible

Matthew 18:10-11 ULB has a footnote about verse 11.

> [10]See that you do not despise any of these little ones. For I say to you that in heaven their angels always look on the face of my Father who is in heaven. [11][1]

[1] Many authorities, some ancient, insert v. 11. *For the Son of Man came to save that which was lost.*

John 7:53-8:11 is not in the best earliest manuscripts. It has been included in the ULB, but it is marked off with square brackets ([ ]) at the beginning and end, and there is a footnote after verse 11.

⁵³[Then every man went to his own house.... ¹¹She said, "No one, Lord." Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way; from now on sin no more."][²]

[²]The best earliest manuscripts do not have John 7:35-8:11

Translation Strategies

When there is a textual variant, you may choose to follow the ULB or another version that you have access to.

1. Translate the verses that the ULB does and include the footnote that the ULB provides.
2. Translate the verses as another version does, and change the footnote so that it fits this situation.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

The translation strategies are applied to Mark 7:15-16 ULB, which has a footnote about verse 16.

- **¹⁴He called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand. ¹⁵There is nothing from outside of a person that can defile him when it enters into him. It is what comes out of the person that defiles him." ¹⁶[1]**

    - **[1]Many ancient authorities insert v. 16. *If any man has ears to hear, let him hear*.**

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    - [1]Some ancient authorities do not have verse 16.

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Chapter and Verse Numbers*

- *Original Manuscripts*
- *Terms to Know*
- *The Original and Source Languages*

Translate Unknowns

This answers the question: How can I translate ideas that my readers are not familiar with?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Sentences*

How do I translate words like lion, fig tree, mountain, priest, or temple when people in my culture have never seen these things and we do not have a word for them?

Description

Unknowns are things that occur in the source text that are not known to the people of your culture. The translationWords pages and the translationNotes will help you understand what they are. After you understand them, you will need to find ways to refer to those things so that people who read your translation will understand what they are.

> We have here only five loaves of *bread* and two fish (Matthew 14:17 ULB)

Bread is a particular food made by mixing finely crushed grains with oil, and then cooking the mixture so that it is dry. (Grains are the seeds of a kind of grass.) In some cultures people do not have bread or know what it is.

Reason this is a translation issue

- Readers may not know some of the things that are in the Bible because those things are not part of their own culture.
- Readers may have difficulty understanding a text if they do not know some of the things that are mentioned in it.

Translation Principles

- Use words that are already part of your language if possible.
- Keep expressions short if possible.
- Represent God's commands and historical facts accurately.

Examples from the Bible

> I will turn Jerusalem into piles of ruins, a hideout for *jackals* (Jeremiah 9:11 ULB)

Jackals are wild animals like dogs that live in only a few parts of the world. So they are not known in many places.

> Beware of false prophets, those who come to you in sheep's clothing, but are truly ravenous *wolves*. (Matthew 7:15 ULB)

If wolves do not live where the translation will be read, the readers may not understand that they are fierce, wild animals like dogs that attack and eat sheep.

> Then they tried to give Jesus wine that was mixed with *myrrh.* But he refused to drink it. (Mark 15:23 ULB)

People may not know what myrrh is and that it was used as a medicine.

> to him who made *great lights* (Psalm 136:7ULB)

Some languages have terms for things that give light, like the sun and fire, but they have no general term for lights.

> your sins ... will be white like *snow* (Isaiah 1:18 ULB)

People in many parts of the world have not seen snow, but they may have seen it in pictures.

Translation Strategies

Here are ways you might translate a term that is not known in your language:

1. Use a phrase that describes the part of the meaning that is important in the particular verse being translated.
2. Substitute something similar from your language if doing so does not falsely represent a historical fact.
3. Copy the word from another language, and add a general word or descriptive phrase to help people understand it.
4. Use a word that is more general in meaning.
5. Use a word or phrase that is more specific in meaning.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Use a phrase that describes the part of the meaning that is important in the particular verse being translated.

- **Beware of false prophets, those who come to you in sheep's clothing, but are truly *ravenous wolves*.** (Matthew 7:15 ULB)

  - "Beware of false prophets, those who come to you in sheep's clothing, but *are truly hungry and dangerous animals.*"

- **We have here only five *loaves of bread* and two fish** (Matthew 14:17 ULB)

  - "We have here only five *loaves of baked grain seeds* and two fish"

2. Substitute something similar from your language if doing so does not falsely represent a historical fact.

- **your sins ... will be white like *snow*** (Isaiah 1:18 ULB) This verse is not about snow. It uses snow in a figure of speech to help people understand how white something will be.

  - ”your sins ... will be white like *milk*”
  - ”your sins ... will be white like *the moon*”

3. Copy the word from another language, and add a general word or descriptive phrase to help people understand it.

- **Then they tried to give Jesus wine that was mixed with *myrrh*. But he refused to drink it.** (Mark 15:23 ULB) - People may understand better what myrrh is if it is used with the general word “medicine.”

  - ”Then they tried to give Jesus wine that was mixed with *a medicine called myrrh*. But he refused to drink it.”

- **We have here only five loaves of *bread* and two fish** (Matthew 14:17 ULB) - People may understand better what bread is if it is used with a phrase that tells what it is made of (seeds) and how it is prepared (crushed and baked).

  - ”We have here only five loaves of *baked crushed seed bread* and two fish”

4. Use a word that is more general in meaning.

- **I will turn Jerusalem into piles of ruins, a hideout for *jackals*** (Jeremiah 9:11 ULB)

  - ”I will turn Jerusalem into piles of ruins, a hideout for *wild dogs*”

- **We have here only five *loaves of bread* and two fish** (Matthew 14:17 ULB)

  - ”We have here only five *loaves of baked food* and two fish”

5. Use a word or phrase that is more specific in meaning.

- **to him who made *great lights*** (Psalm 136:7 ULB)

  - ”to him who made *the sun and the moon*”

Next we recommend you learn about:

- *Copy or Borrow Words*
- *How to Translate Names*

Proverbs

This answers the question: What are proverbs, and how can I translate them?

In order to understand this topic, it would be good to read:

- *Metaphor*
- *Parallelism*
- *Writing Styles*

People enjoy proverbs because they give a lot of wisdom in few words. When you follow your language's ways of saying proverbs, you will make your translation sparkle.

Description

Proverbs are a sentence or a few sentences that give wisdom or teach a truth. Proverbs in the Bible often use metaphor and parallelism.

> Hatred stirs up conflicts,
> but love covers over all offenses. (Proverbs 10:12 ULB)

> Look at the ant, you lazy person, consider her ways, and be wise.
> It has no commander, officer, or ruler,
> yet it prepares its food in the summer,
> and during the harvest it stores up what it will eat. (Proverbs 6:6-8 ULB)

Reason this is a translation issue:

Each language has its own ways of saying proverbs. There are many proverbs in the Bible. They need to be translated in a way for people to recognize them as proverbs and understand what they teach.

Examples from the Bible

> A good name is to be chosen over great riches,
> and favor is better than silver and gold. (Proverbs 22:1 ULB)

This means that it is better to be a good person and to have a good reputation than it is to have a lot of money.

> Like vinegar on the teeth and smoke in the eyes,
> so is the sluggard to those who send him. (Proverbs 10:26 ULB)

This means that if a person is lazy and does do what he was sent to do, he will be very annoying to those who send.

> The way of Yahweh protects those who have integrity,
> but it is destruction for the wicked. (Proverbs 10:29 ULB)

This means that Yahweh protects people who do what is right, but he destroys those who are wicked.
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Translation Strategies

If translating a proverb literally would be natural and give the right meaning in your language, consider doing that. If not, here are some options:

1. Find out how people say proverbs in your language, and use one of those ways.
2. If certain objects in the proverb are not known to many people in your language group, consider replacing them with objects that people know and that function in the same way in your language.
3. Substitute a proverb in your language that has the same teaching as the proverb in the Bible.
4. Give the same teaching but not in a form of a proverb.

Examples of Translation Strategies Applied

1. Find out how people say proverbs in your language, and use one of those ways. Here are some ideas for ways people might say a proverb in their language.

A good name is to be chosen over great riches,
and favor is better than silver and gold. (Proverbs 22:1 ULB)

- "It is better to have a good name than to have great riches, and to be favored by people than to have silver and gold."
- "Wise people choose a good name over great riches and favor over silver and gold."
- "Try to have a good reputation rather than great riches."
- "Will riches really help you? I would rather have a good reputation."

2. If certain objects in the proverb are not known to many people in your language group, consider replacing them with objects that people know and that function in the same way in your language.

Like *snow in summer* or rain in harvest,
so a fool does not deserve honor. (Proverbs 26:1 ULB)

- "It is not natural for *a cold wind to blow in the hot season* or for it to rain in the harvest season; And it is not natural to honor a foolish person."

3. Substitute a proverb in your language that has the same teaching as the proverb in the Bible.

Do not boast about tomorrow (Proverbs 27:1 ULB)

- "Do not count your chickens before they hatch."

4. Give the same teaching but not in a form of a proverb.

A generation that curses their father and does not bless their mother,
that is a generation that is pure in their own eyes,
but they are not washed of their filth. (Proverbs 30:11-12 ULB)

- "People who do not respect their parents think that they are righteous, and they do not turn away from their sin."