

# The Future of American Jewish Bible Translation

JPS | NMAJH | Creighton University

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## I. Leitwort 'leading word' (Buber-Rosenzweig)

### 1. Genesis 24 – יד *yad* 'hand' 7x

24:2 שִׁים־נָא יָדְךָ תַּחַת יְרֵכִי:

Place, please, your hand (*yad*) under my thigh.

24:9 וַיִּשֶׂם הָעֶבֶד אֶת־יָדוֹ תַּחַת יָרֵךְ אַבְרָהָם אֲדֹנָיו

And the servant placed his hand (*yad*) under the thigh of Abraham his master.

24:10 וַיִּקַּח הָעֶבֶד עֶשְׂרֵה גַמְלִים מִגַּמְלֵי אֲדֹנָיו וַיֵּלֶךְ וְכָל־טוֹב אֲדֹנָיו בְּיָדוֹ

And the servant took ten camels, from among the camels of his master, and he went with all the bounty of his master in his hand (*yad*). [NJV: *with him*]

24:18 וַתִּרְדַּד בְּיָדָהּ עַל־יָדָהּ וַתִּשְׁקֶהוּ:

And she lowered her jug onto her hand (*yad*), and she gave him drink.

24:22 וַיִּקַּח הָאִישׁ גָּזָם זָהָב . . . וּשְׁנֵי צְמִידִים עַל־יָדָיָהּ

And the man took a nose-ring of gold . . . and two bracelets on her hands (*yad*). [NJV: *for her arms*]

24:30 וַיְהִי | כִּי־רָאָת אֶת־הַנֶּזָּם וְאֶת־הַצְּמִידִים עַל־יָדֵי אָחִיתוֹ

And when he saw the nose-ring and the bracelets on the hands (*yad*) of his sister. [NJV: *on his sister's arms*]

24:47      וְאָשֶׁם הַנְּזָם עַל-אַפָּהּ וְהַצְּמִידִים עַל-יָדֶיהָ:  
And I put the nose-ring on her nose and the bracelets on her  
hands (*yad*). [NJV: on her *arms*]

## 2. Exodus 1-2 – בַּת *bat* ‘daughter’ 11x

1:16      אִם-בֶּן הוּא וְהַמָּתֵן אֹתוֹ וְאִם-בַּת הִיא וְחָיָה:  
And if it is a son, you shall kill him, and if it is a daughter  
(*bat*), she may live. [NJV: if it is a *girl*, let her live]

1:22      כָּל-הַבֵּן הַיְלֹוֹד הַיְאֹרָה תִשְׁלִיכֶהוּ וְכָל-הַבַּת תַּחְיֶינָה:  
Every newborn son, into the Nile you shall cast him, and every  
daughter (*bat*) you shall let-live. [NJV: but let every *girl* live]

2:1      וַיֵּלֶךְ אִישׁ מִבֵּית לֵוִי וַיִּקַּח אֶת-בַּת-לֵוִי:  
And a man from the house of Levi went, and he took a daughter  
(*bat*) of Levi. [NJV: a Levite *woman*]

2:5      וַתָּרַד בַּת-פַּרְעֹה לְרַחֵץ עַל-הַיָּאֵר (see also vv. 7, 8, 9, 10)  
And the daughter (*bat*) of Pharaoh went-down to bathe at the  
Nile.

2:16      וּלְכֹהֵן מִדְיָן שִׁבְעַ בָּנוֹת  
And to the priest of Midian were seven daughters (*banot*).

2:20      וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל-בָּנוֹתָיו וַאֲנִי  
And he said to his daughters (*bənotaw*), ‘Where is he?’.

2:21      וַיִּתֵּן אֶת-צִפּוֹרָה בַּתוֹ לְמֹשֶׁה:  
And he gave Zippora his daughter (*bitto*) to Moses.

## II. Connections between literary units

Exodus 2:2 וַתֵּרָא אֹתוֹ כִּי־טוֹב הוּא

And she saw him, that he was good (*ki tov*). [NJV: how *beautiful* he was]

Genesis 1:4 וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאֹר כִּי־טוֹב

And God saw the light, that it was good (*ki tov*).

Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25 וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים כִּי־טוֹב:

And God saw that it was good (*ki tov*).

## III. Confused syntax

### 1. 1 Samuel 9:12-13

וַתַּעֲנִינָה אוֹתָם וַתֹּאמְרָנָה יֵשׁ הַנְּהָ לְפָנֶיךָ מֵהָר | עֵתָה כִּי הַיּוֹם בָּא לְעִיר כִּי זָבַח הַיּוֹם לָעַם בְּבִמָּה:  
כִּבְּאַכְּם הָעִיר כֵּן תִּמְצְאוּן אֹתוֹ בְּטָרִם יַעֲלֶה הַבְּמִתָּה לְאָכֹל כִּי לֹא־יֹאכֵל הָעַם עַד־בֹּאוֹ כִּי־הוּא  
יִבְרַךְ הַזָּבַח אַחֲרֵי־כֵן יֹאכְלוּ הַקְּרָאִים וְעַתָּה עֲלוּ כִּי־אֵתוֹ כִּהְיוֹם תִּמְצְאוּן אֹתוֹ:

‘Yes, here before you; hurry now, because today he is coming to the city, because the sacrifice is today for the people at the high-place. When you come to the city, thus you will find him, before he goes up to the high-place to eat, because the people cannot eat until he comes, because he must bless the sacrifice, afterwards the invited-ones can eat; so now go up, because him, this very day you will find him’.

### 2. Genesis 37:30 וַיָּשָׁב אֶל־אָחִיו וַיֹּאמֶר הַיֵּלֶד אֵינְנוּ וְאֲנִי אֲנָה אֲנִי־בָא:

G.A.R.: And he returned to his brothers, and he said, “The child is not, and I, to where shall I come?”

NJV: Returning to his brothers, he said, “The boy is gone! Now, what am I to do?”

*RSV:* and returned to his brothers, and said, “The lad is gone; and I, where shall I go?”

*Alter:* and he came to his brothers, and he said, “The boy is gone, and I, where can I turn?”

*Fox:* and returned to his brothers and said: The child is no more!  
And I – where am I to go?

*Buber-Rosenzweig:* und kehrte zu seinen Brüdern und sprach:  
Das Kind is nicht da! und ich, ach wo komme ich hin!

#### IV. White space

2 Samuel 12:5-7

5 וַיַּחֲרֹאף דָּוִד בְּאִישׁ מְאֹד וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל־נָתָן חַי־יְהוָה כִּי בְּוִמֹת הָאִישׁ הָעֲשֵׂה זֹאת:  
6 וְאֶת־הַכֶּבֶשֶׂה יִשְׁלַם אַרְבַּעַתַּיִם עֶקֶב אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה אֶת־הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְעַל אֲשֶׁר לֹא־חָמַל:  
7 וַיֹּאמֶר נָתָן אֶל־דָּוִד אַתָּה הָאִישׁ כֹּה־אָמַר יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אָנֹכִי מִשְׁחָתִיף  
לְמִלְךָ עַל־יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאָנֹכִי הִצַּלְתִּיךָ מִיַּד שָׂאוּל:

*NJV:*

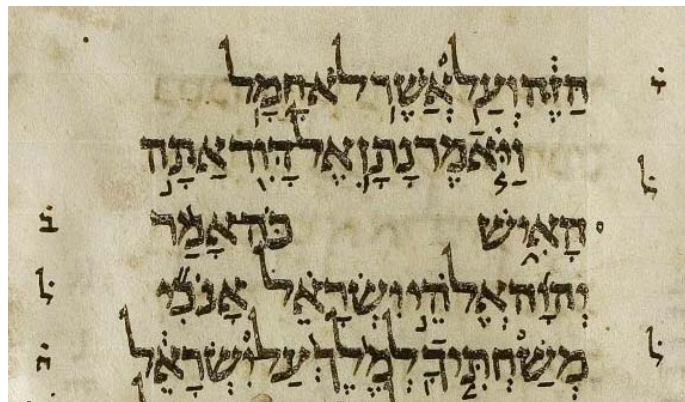
<sup>5</sup> David flew into a rage against the man, and said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who did this deserves to die! <sup>6</sup> He shall pay for the lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and showed no pity.” <sup>7</sup> And Nathan said to David, “That man is you! Thus said the LORD, the God of Israel: ‘It was I who anointed you king over Israel and it was I who rescued you from the hand of Saul. . . .

G.A.R.:

<sup>5</sup> And David became very angry against the man, and he said to Nathan,  
“As YHWH lives, a ‘son of death’ is the man who did this! <sup>6</sup> For the ewe he  
shall pay fourfold, because he did such a thing and showed no pity.”

<sup>7</sup> And Nathan said to David, “You are the man!”

“Thus says YHWH, the God of Israel: ‘I, I anointed you king over Israel and  
I, I rescued you from the hand of Saul. . . .



2 Samuel 12:5-7  
in the Aleppo Codex  
(similarly St Petersburg)