

What's in a Translation?

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

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| Translation | Psalm 23 | Ecclesiastes |
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| The King James Bible | The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul. | Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities: all is vanity. |
| JPS | The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me to water in places of repose; He renews my life; | Utter futility!—said Koheleth—Utter futility! All is futile! |
| Artscroll | Hashem is my shepherd, I shall not lack. In lush meadows he lays me down, beside tranquil waters He leads me. He restores my soul. | Futility of futilities!—said Koheles—futility of futilities! All is futile! |
| The Revised Standard Version | The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me to lie down in green pastures. he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. | Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. |
| The New English Bible | The Lord is my shepherd; I shall want nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, and leads me beside the waters of peace; he renews life within me. | Emptiness, emptiness, says the Speaker, emptiness, all is empty. |
| The Jerusalem Bible | Yahweh is my shepherd, I lack nothing. In meadows of green grass he lets me lie. To the waters of repose he leads me; there he revives my soul. | Vanity of vanities, Qoheleth says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity! |
| The New American Bible | The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose: Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. | Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth, vanity of vanities! All things are vanity! |
| The Holy Scriptures | The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me to water in places of repose; He renews my life. | Utter futility! — said Koheleth — Utter futility! All is futile! |
| The New King James Version | The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul. | “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher. “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” |
| The Living Bible | Because the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need! He lets me rest in the meadow grass and leads me beside the quiet streams. He restores my failing health. | In my opinion, nothing is worthwhile; everything is futile. |
| The Good News Bible | The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. He gives me new strength. | It is useless, useless, said the Philosopher. Life is useless, all useless. |
| The New International Version | The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. | “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” |